

SOCER

WEEKLY

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CLUBS WARNING FROM NSL BOSS ...

'TAKE IT EASY!'

STEVE KAMASZ, secretary of the National League, predicts an outstanding 1984 Soccer season... if clubs handle their debits and credits sensibly.

In an exclusive interview, Kamasz told ASW: "I am very optimistic about the new season. I expected 1983 to be difficult because the NSL was trying to do so much. But I always believed that, if we staggered through 1983, we could look

forward keenly to 1984."

But the boss of the national competition added a warning to clubs — "Don't over-stretch your financial resources."

He went on: "Some clubs might have a budget of \$200,000 and be constantly struggling. Give them \$300,000 and they'd still struggle. They just cannot balance their books.

"If these clubs get extra money, they give it to

players. They conduct their Soccer business with their hearts, not their heads!"

BY DAVID JACK

"Fortunately most clubs are waking up now. They have cut out huge signing-on fees and swung towards the more sensible system of paying increased win bonuses.

"That way, you encourage success and give players the incentive to perform better."

This will be very much an experimental year for the NSL. Teams will play under a completely new format which, in theory, should be of financial benefit.

With more local derby games, crowds must surely improve from some of last season's lamentable figures: and with much less interstate air travel, the outgoings will be reduced.

As Steve Kamasz says: "There is an upturn in the Australian economy, and Soccer should benefit. Transfer fees have been reduced to more reasonable levels and the revamped format for the National League includes an end-of-season top five tournament.

"We have good cause to be optimistic."

Kamasz realises, however, that unless clubs heed the warning to reduce their spending, it will be yet another year of financial misery as clubs constantly battle to keep their heads above water.

"There is only one way this very big headache will be solved," said the NSL boss. "Soccer clubs will have to be educated in proper administration."

Maybe 1984 will be the year when they at last see the light. Maybe this will be the last chance they'll get to run their Soccer business with their heads — and not with their hearts!



Stefan Kamasz, general manager of the 24 team NSL.

LIONS SHOCK: NO COACH

BY GREG RUSSELL

BRISBANE LIONS are without a coach and the club in chaos following a telegram from Simon Kistemaker advising that he is staying in Europe.

The Dutchman was expected back in Brisbane this week after signing a contract for 1984 in October prior to leaving for what he told Lions officials would be a Christmas holiday in Holland.

But last-weekend Lions secretary Lawrence Oudendyk received a telegram which read: "I do not come back. Letter follows."

Angry Lions officials attempted to telephone Kistemaker in Holland but were told he was in Belgium and uncontactable.

Kistemaker was approached by Belgian Second Division club Turnhout last June — midway through his first season with Lions.

But before leaving Bris-

bane last year, Kistemaker said he had turned down the Turnhout approaches to coach the young Lions team for one more season.

Lions now are advertising nationally for a last-minute coach and have enlisted the aid of Les Scheinflug in a bid to organise them before the season gets any closer.



FARINA DEALT BODY BLOW

... SEE PAGE 3

BIG, BUMPER, ASW

Today, AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY welcomes the new season with a bumper 24-page issue of Australia's favourite Soccer newspaper.

Among the goodies in this first ASW of 1984, you'll find:

- P4 to P9 NSL Team prospects
- P10 Chit-Chat
- P11 (EXCLUSIVE) Les Scheinflug on the Merlion Cup
- P12 Super Challenge Cup
- P19 Girls in Soccer
- P20, 21 & 22 Juniors by Keith Gilmour
- P24 All the news from UK Soccer

That is only for starters.

There is something for everyone in ASW — Soccer's biggest, brightest and best publication.

On sale every Tuesday (Wednesday in some States).

If you experience difficulty in obtaining ASW at your local newsagent, please contact our Sydney office for details of subscription rates.

WELCOME TO ASW 1984.

EDITORIAL

ON a recent radio programme, Steve Kamasz, the secretary-manager of the National Soccer League, was asked to comment on Nottingham Forest's bid to sign Robbie Slater from Sydney club, St George.

Kamasz stated he was delighted to know a top English club was anxious to recruit the boy from Sydney.

The NSL boss then went on to talk about other outstanding Australian players, like David Mitchell and Tom McCulloch, who are trying to break through into the big-time in the UK.

We cannot share Kamasz's enthusiasm for this sudden interest in Australian talent by overseas clubs.

Certainly, it is good to know Australian players have now reached a standard which makes them attractive propositions to overseas clubs. But if the trend continues, and in fact, accelerates — as seems likely — will Soccer in Australia have anything to feel happy about?

On the contrary, Australia is not so well blessed with outstanding players that it can afford to lose three or four or more to foreign clubs.

Sure, there are so-called safeguards. Before players sign for overseas teams, they could insist that they will be released whenever they are required for Socceroo duty. In theory, that sounds all right. But, as Sydney Olympic discovered last season with New Zealander Ricky Herbert, it can involve great hardship to the club if international calls become too frequent.

Many UK clubs would flatly refuse to include any such guarantee in an Australian player's contract.

The one tangible benefit to Australian Soccer when a player joins a foreign club is that the full-time training and full-time professionalism in top class competition cannot help but improve the boy's ability.

That's the credit side of the balance sheet. On the debit side, Australia's national team would be dealt a serious blow, perhaps a mortal blow, if several of our top players could not represent the Socceroos because of overseas club commitments.

And it is not only Australia's national team which would suffer. At club level, how would local spectators feel if their favourite players were no longer playing in Australian club Soccer? Attendances are bad enough already and if the NSL's very few stars are spirited away, it is reasonable to assume the fans would react by staying at home.

This is a situation which, some years ago, alarmed the then national coach Rudi Gutendorf. Indeed, faced with the possible defection of players like Eddie Krnecic, Peter Sharne and Alan Davidson, Gutendorf persuaded the Australian Soccer Federation to design a document which, once the player had signed it, would have forbidden any transfer to a foreign team.

It is most doubtful, however, that this document could have withstood a court challenge had it been fought by a player.

ASW agrees with NSL boss Steve Kamasz that it is heartening to know that young Australian players are now playing well enough to attract big contracts from professional teams in Europe.

But the prospect of losing talented youngsters — Krnecic, Mitchell, Davidson and Craig Johnston have already left our shores — fills us with alarm rather than delight.



□ Blacktown Mitsubishi general manager Roger Kwiecz (right) with Blacktown City Soccer Club promotions manager Vince Montgomery show that the sponsorship cheque wasn't small bickies in a shot taken at the dealer's premises.

DEMONS TURN TO COLTS

BY KEITH GILMOUR

BLACKTOWN Mitsubishi, of Sunnyholme Rd Blacktown, have signed a welcome sponsorship agreement with the Blacktown City Soccer Club.

Demons' president Brian Adair was on hand to accept a cheque for \$12,500 to cement the deal.

Blacktown Mitsubishi general manager Roger Kwiecz said that this was his firm's first sponsorship of this magnitude.

The funds will assist Blacktown's drive for quality players, designed to ensure that the club has a big year back in National Soccer League ranks.

Blacktown now have Gary Byrne, the former Canberra and Marconi midfielder, signed up from the Arrows.

Byrne, 29, made 33 appearances in the national colours before falling out with Rudi Gutendorf. His signing shows that Blacktown means business.

There are more signings to come, thanks to Blacktown Mitsubishi.

The club will commence their challenge for honours in the National

League on Sunday, March 4.

They have introduced a very reasonable season ticket that is aimed at increasing the family atmosphere at the Gabba Stadium during the 1984 season.

Bearing in mind the admission charges of \$5 for adults and \$1 children, it makes the new family season ticket costing \$60 a very viable proposition.

Any number of children from the same family may be included on the ticket.

With the current financial situation as it is, this concession will greatly assist the family groups and should prove to be very popular.

Season tickets for single adults will be \$55 and pensioners \$14.

These tickets are available at the Blacktown City licensed club, located at 62 Seven Hills Rd North, Seven Hills.

USA CHAMPION DOWN UNDER

BY FRED VILLIERS

MELBOURNE Croatia's new coach, Terry Hennessey, is a professional's professional.

At 41, he comes to Melbourne with a wealth of football experience having just been named North American Soccer League Coach of the Year.

His achievement has been to coach Tulsa Roughnecks to their first League championship and despite this he turned down \$75,000 to stay with the club. He preferred to accept the challenge Down Under for much less money.

But he's already made his presence felt. His coaching sessions — three times a week at Olympic Park — have attracted up to 1,000 spectators which augurs well for the season.

His methods are new. He captures the imagination of his 21-man squad. He's even brought one of the club's stalwarts out of "retirement" in former Victorian and Croatian defender Steve Kokoska.

It has been more than 18 months since Steve kicked a ball and he re-

ceived a big ovation from the enthusiastic crowd when he arrived in the club's red, white and blue colours.

Hennessey, as smooth as Hennessey brandy when it comes to preparing a team, knows what it takes to produce a championship side. After all he's had four years in the tough NASL and his career goes back to when he was 17 and signed for Birmingham City.

His first task as centre-half for the English club was to mark the colourful Denis Law when he played against Manchester United. He shut him out of the game, Birmingham won the match and eventually the Football League Cup, and a star was born.

Hennessey was transferred to Nottingham Forest in 1965 for \$90,000 and was named captain the following season. Forest finished Division One

runner-up and Hennessey scored the club's lone goal in the FA Cup semi-final against Tottenham Hotspur.

He was later transferred to Derby County for \$200,000 and played for Derby's 1972 English championship side.

A severe leg injury forced him to retire in 1974.

During his playing days, Hennessey was nicknamed the "Velvet Glove" for his smooth, skilful passing and defensive and playmaking abilities.

He played 39 internationals for Wales and was captain on 20 occasions.

He has a wife, Sandra, and two children, Dean, 19 (who plays for Albion Rovers in the Victorian State League) and Samantha, 17.

Melbourne fans are saying if Hennessey can't succeed with the Croatians nobody can.

BRISBANE LIONS SOCCER CLUB

Applications are invited for the position of NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE COACH for the 1984 season.

Applications close on Tuesday, January 31, 1984, and should be in writing addressed:

THE SECRETARY
PO BOX 310,
DARRA, QLD 4076

Applicants should state age, qualifications, experience and remuneration required.

WOLVES PLAYERS ARE ON STRIKE

BY PHIL MURPHY

A pre-season confrontation between Wollongong City players and directors over money could wreck any chance the team has of doing well in 1984.

In recent weeks a group of "rebels" have been having negotiations with the board over payments which weren't honoured by the club last season.

Originally there were eight players involved in the dispute — Phil O'Connor, Phil Kerr, Larry Gaffney, Chris Dunleavy, Jeff Ainsworth, Natch Vardareff, Peter Willis and John Fleming.

The club made a reply through chairman Laurie Kelly that no money is owed to the players; then a few days later director and publicity officer Jack Zanier admitted money was owed to players, but they couldn't pay what they didn't have.

STOP PRESS: Vardareff and Willis have now settled their differences and are back at training.



NSW SOCCER FEDERATION

Director of Coaching

The position provides for full-time employment with the NSW Soccer Federation for a suitably qualified person to work within the area administered by the NSW Federation.

Applicants should apply in the first instance to:

The Secretary,
482 Meurants Lane,
Parklea, NSW 2148.

stating their qualifications and experience on, or before, 6-2-84.

Conditions of employment and salary to be negotiated.

FARINA TRANSFER FEE UPROAR

BY BERNIE HARRIS

YOUTH international striker Frank Farina, voted by Network O/28 viewers as Australian Soccer's most entertaining player, has been placed on transfer by his club, Mareeba, for \$20,000.

And the fee has shocked Soccer circles throughout Australia, and particularly the club most likely to purchase him — Canberra Arrows.

Arrows coach Doug Collins is bitterly disappointed at the amount sought. Collins pointed out that to his knowledge Farina made only four appearances in four weeks for Mareeba in the Queensland State League and received \$110 for those games.

But Mareeba tells a different story. The North Queensland club contends that it spent "thousands and thousands" of dollars entering the local team in the State League, and but for the exposure afforded for players like Farina and Ray Junna their talents might never have been seen by southern clubs or come under the national spotlight.

Mareeba in fact states that it has at all times facilitated the promotion of Farina's career. It welcomed his joining the Australian Institute of Sport and readily agreed to him linking with Canberra Arrows at the start of the 1983 season on loan.

When Farina returned from the Mexico Youth Cup tournament, Mareeba again acquiesced to Farina continuing on loan to the Arrows.

The view is held in Mareeba that had the Arrows adopted a realistic approach to the club in seeking to sign Farina the deal could have been completed without any complications.

The last thing Mareeba wants to do is stand in the way of Farina's future, but it sees the need to protect its interests as well.



DOUG COLLINS

So, where does this place Farina?

At the end of the 1983 season, the lad had aspirations to trial in the United Kingdom. Canberra Arrows coach Doug Collins sought to dissuade Farina from this course and in the end the striker did not make the trip, mainly due to visa and work permit problems.

At the same time, Mareeba was concerned that Farina did not contact them to discuss the facilitating of this proposal in the terms of his contract.

Farina has been playing his cards close to his chest, having received firm offers from the Arrows and several other clubs, especially two Sydney teams. Both Brisbane clubs earlier had expressed interest but are now understood to be out of the race.

Last week, the Queensland Soccer Federation received official advice from Mareeba of the transfer listing of Farina.

Farina has the right to appeal to the Queensland Soccer Federation against the fee. The only ground

appears to be that it is "excessive". But before he can take that step an official letter must be received by Mareeba from another club proposing a fee for acquiring Farina's services.

There is little doubt that such a letter will come from the Canberra Arrows, with the likely fee to be offered about \$4,000 or \$5,000.

If that offer is rejected (assuming that no more acceptable offers come from other clubs), the way is then clear for Farina to lodge his appeal within 14 days.

Out of the whole affair a further question arises and it demands speedy resolution. That is the position of clubs whose players come to national and international attention through the excellent work of coach Jimmy Shoulder and his staff at the national capital's Institute of Sport.

Some means of determining fair recompense to clubs must be devised, but most essentially the playing future of the nation's most talented youngsters must be protected.

'REJECTS' MEET IN AMPOL CUP

BY BRAD EARL

THE TWO State League teams who just failed to grab a place in the revamped NSL line-up come up against each other in the NSW Ampol Cup this week.

The Sutherland - Manly game is the highlight of the first round, which consists of the 12 teams who will compete for NSW State League First Division honours.

On last year's form in State League, Sutherland, Manly, Ku-ring-gai and Avala will be the teams to watch this season.

However, it's a whole new ball-game with many teams facing changes.

Sutherland, who beat the Seasiders home and away last season, will be without coach Johnny Watkiss and players such as Mal Haynes, Shane Clinch and Steve Meades (see story Page 16).

Manly, who have been training under tough conditioner Richard Alagic, may prove too strong in this opening game.

That match is on Friday at Sutherland, with the early game between promoted Warringah-Narrabeen and Yugal.

Tomorrow night (Wednesday), the other team promoted from Second Division, Rockdale Ilinden, take on the youthful Canterbury-Marrickville at Melita Stadium.

In the late game, Avala will be able to write their own score against Polonia, who look like struggling this season.

The remaining first

round games will be played on Saturday night at Marconi Stadium.

First up is Bankstown against Ku-ring-gai, and the new-look Bankstown team, now with several Lebanese players, could surprise the strong Ku-ring-gai.

That match will be followed by Auburn v Inter-

Monaro, and on 1983 form, the ACT club should be favourites.

The winners qualify for matches in the second round against NSL clubs, to be played on Friday Feb 3 and Sunday Feb 5.

The following week sees the quarter-finals, and it will be interesting to see if any of the State

League clubs can make it that far.

Sutherland and Manly sure would like to... in view of their rejection for the NSL.

FOOTNOTE: The Ampol Cup this year will be played on a straight knock-out basis, which means no second chances. It's a win — or sudden death!

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION

★★★★★ ★presents★★★★★

NSW AMPOL CUP

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25 — MELITA STADIUM
6.45pm Rockdale v Canterbury-Marrickville
8.25pm Avala v Polonia

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27 — SEYMOUR SHAW PARK
6.45pm Warringah v Yugal
8.25pm Sutherland v Manly

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28 — MARCONI STADIUM
6.45pm Bankstown National v Ku-ring-gai
8.25pm Auburn v Inter Monaro

NEXT WEEK:

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 3 — ST GEORGE STADIUM
6.45pm Sydney City v Rockdale or Cant-M'velle
8.25pm Wollongong City v Leichhardt

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 3 — MARCONI STADIUM
6.45pm Blacktown City v Avala or Polonia
8.25pm Marconi v Sutherland or Manly

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5 — ST GEORGE STADIUM
6.45pm Croatia Sydney v Warringah or Yugal
8.25pm Sydney Olympic v B'town National or Ku-ring-gai

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5 — MELITA STADIUM
6.45pm Penrith City v Auburn or Inter Monaro
8.25pm Parramatta Melita v St George BSC



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1984 NSL —

ADELAIDE CITY

KREFT BACK IN CHARGE

BY TOM MCKAIN

VETERAN coach Edmund Kreft is being regarded as the saviour of Adelaide City following his recall from the wilderness.

And he will have to call on all his experience for the 1984 NSL season, as at the time of going to press there was no indication that the club planned to buy any star players.

And star Youth Socceroo squad striker Joe Mullen had still not signed a contract for 1984.

On top of that Kiwi international defender Glenn Dods announced he would retire.

The 53-year-old Kreft, following pressure from supporters, was dumped by City back in 1978, when Les Scheinflug took over in mid-season.

Now returning president, Mr Charlie Caruso, who signed Kreft when City joined the national scene in 1977, has recalled the Polish maestro.

Kreft played for State League club Polonia before going on to coach them, then City.

Since departing from the coaching scene, Kreft has been a regular spectator, but refused several coaching appointments.

Apart from Mullen, Dods and midfielder Stewart Blair, who has been given permission to train with Azzurri, City look like having the same squad as last season.

Only doubt is Neil Balford, the former England Youth international who may decide to stay with Orient in England.

Star forward Charlie Villani has shelved plans to move to Melbourne where he was wanted by Juventus, and veteran captain Bugsy Nyskohus has agreed to play at least another season.

While Mullen is in doubt, City does have a replacement on the horizon — a 23-year-old English striker who has been playing in New Zealand.

His name was still on the secret list when we went to press, as City had to finalise negotiations with his Kiwi club.

The forward has looked good in training, but there could be complications as he is a visa player.

He played with City centre-back Neville Flounders for Northern English League club Whitley Town before moving to NZ.

While Blair is expected to return to Azzurri, City have two local midfielders on their shopping list, but again are not yet prepared to name them.

While Kreft does not look like getting any cash to buy a "big name" — unless Mullen is sold for a high price — forward

Charlie Villani and midfielder Sergio Melta have matured out of sight and should kick off with star ratings this season.

Melta was on national coach Les Scheinflug's short-list and Villani was in the Australian U23 touring team which had its proposed tour cancelled.

And front-runner Peter Rankin showed a lot more maturity towards the end of 1983, and should have benefitted from his first full season in the NSL line-up.

But while Kreft will no doubt be confident about lifting the team above its 11th spot of last season to improve on former coach Bobby Ferguson's record, he may find it hard without the injection of some new experienced blood.

Like West boss Sam Salabasides, he is hoping to sign Polonia's Polish import, midfielder Jan Kierno, winner of the Rothman's Medal last season.

However, Polonia are most reluctant to release the star.



□ BUGSY NY SKOHUS

MELITA



BY ANDREW PASCHALIDIS

PARRAMATTA Melita, one of the four new clubs in the revamped NSL, are confident of reaching a high position in their first year.

The 1983 NSW State League champions have suffered a major setback in their defensive formation with the transfer of captain Micky Cross and Paul Daley to Penrith City.

All the other first grade players have agreed to

DEFENCE IS WEAKENED

terms and have been training strongly for four weeks — bar Ray Farugia who has just returned from overseas after representing Malta in World Cup elimination games.

Then first grade side will be controlled for the

second year in succession by Raul Blanco and his assistant Dennis Hogarth, who works solely with the first grade side. The youth team coach is yet to be appointed.

Financially the club is in a stable condition considering they don't have the backing of a licensed club.

Recently, the playing facilities at Melita Stadium were upgraded by the installation of a \$22,000 sprinkler system.

New signings that stand out at this stage are Paul Andricopoulos and Stuart Johnston.

Paul, an U18 NSW representative, was signed from Canterbury-Marrickville after having played in the third grade side last year.

Johnston was signed from Blacktown City and has experienced the trials and tribulations of the National League with Marconi.

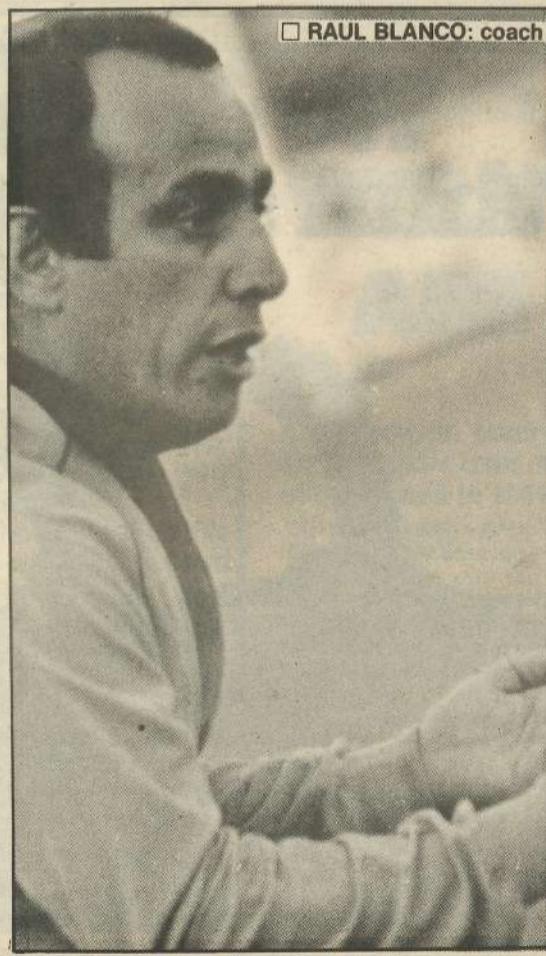
Negotiations are presently underway to sign St George utility player Kenny Wilson. He has agreed to terms and it is just a matter of him signing.

Melita president Emmanuel Said, who has been actively involved with the Melita club for 21 years, is confident of success this season.

"All the people involved with Melita are looking forward to the new season."

"As a team we played very well last year and we are fit at this time of the season," he said. "The Super Challenge Cup tournament should give us an indication on how strong or weak we are."

□ RAUL BLANCO: coach



□ RAUL BLANCO: coach

MARCONI

SCHEINFLUG MUST FILL THE GAPS

BY KEITH GILMOUR

DESPITE the certain loss of Vic Bozanic, Ian Hunter and Tom Sermann, Marconi can be relied upon to press the leaders throughout the 1984 season.

They should be amongst the top five for the grand final series in the Australian Conference. Whether they collect any honours will depend upon the calibre of players yet to be signed to fill the gaps left by their losses.

Coach Les Scheinflug and the committee are well aware that the midfield needs boosting to give more support to Tony Henderson and Tommy McCulloch.

Henderson, the club's Player of the Year and Gyrock Cup winner last season, is likely to fill a midfield spot.

Hunter came good towards the end of 1983 when he gained a settled place in the team. Scheinflug makes no bones about his view that Hunter would have been a first choice player this year.

If Rod Brown can overcome those niggling injuries he will develop into one of Australia's best centre-forwards. Mark Jankovics, still 27, has come back to the squad with renewed determination and vigour.

Players who have the chance to show their full potential this year are goalkeeper Bruce James, central defender Steve Calderan and left-back Joe Rizzotto.

But cool it, Joe, when the pace hots up. Do so and your great ability will come right to the fore.

□ TOMMY McCULLOCH: support



BRISBANE LIONS

LIONS LEAVE IT TO THE CUBS

BY GREG RUSSELL

AFTER the worst season in their history, in which the club finished the year propping up the table, Brisbane Lions surprisingly have done almost nothing to strengthen their team.

And in fact their squad has already been weakened by the loss of Socceroo squad member Steve Hogg to Canberra Arrows, an employment-forced move, and the transfer-listing of Nigel Lowndes, Billy Williamson and Bob McSkimming.

With coach Simon Kistemaker informing the club that he is not returning from Europe (see story Page 1), the job of recruitment has fallen in the hands of one or two club officials.

Kistemaker, who only made the decision to return to Lions days before his departure in October, left club officials with a short-list of players he would like to sign.

But Lions have struck out on each occasion.

Lions conducted preliminary talks with one or two other players.

Lions first major signing is young Tasmanian striker Andrew Leszczynski.

Leszczynski, 19, from Tasmanian State League club White Eagles, was

the Player of the series at the Australian Schoolboy Championships in Brisbane last year. The strong, tall striker, who is likely to partner Danny Wright, scored nine goals in 15 matches with his Hobart club last year.

At this stage, the only other new face likely is young goalkeeper Rob Farrow.

Farrow, from Premier League club Acacia Ridge, was picked in the

Queensland squad for last season's match against New South Wales, but broke his hand in training. He has only just recovered from the injury and there is still some doubt on his ability to last the season.

So once again, the job at Lions is going to be left to the youngsters and the lone experienced player likely to be in the squad, Alan Niven.

That's not all bad news, as the youngsters showed against South Melbourne in the last round in 1983, but it definitely makes it an uphill battle.

In fact, unless Lions buy an experienced defender and another striker before the start of the season, it could be a long, hard struggle again.

TEAM PROSPECTS



KEVIN MULLEN: free

SYDNEY CITY

SLICKERS STILL A TOP TEAM

BY DAVID JACK

SYDNEY CITY SLICKERS will be a better side this year than they were in 1983 — according to coach Eddie Thomson.

"The first grade squad will be much as before and if the players perform as well as they can, we will again give the NSL title a good shake," predicted Eddie.

At this stage, there are only two notable departures. Kevin Mullen has been given a free transfer and Ian Bruce has moved to Western Australia.

This must inevitably weaken Slickers' defence but Thomson says it is no major worry.

He expects a lot from young W.A. full-back Michael Lynch, describing him as "an obvious replacement for Mullen."

With a virtually unchanged first grade squad, Thomson has every reason to look ahead with confidence, particularly as the traumas and rumours which affected the team early last year are no longer being experienced.

Kenny Boden still has a year to go on his contract and, despite stories that he would sign for Penrith City, he has not moved yet.

Slickers gave Penrith permission to talk to Boden some time ago, but the NSL newcomers have still not made a move to sign the talented Englishman.

After a year on loan to Newcastle KB United, Grant Lee, the former Youth Socceroo, is back with the Bondi club.

"The change did the boy a world of good and I expect big things from him now he's back with us," says Eddie.

Another of Sydney City's bright youngsters, Jean Paul de Marigny, is set to really make an impression this year.

The boy returned recently from another stint with outstanding Scottish League club, Aberdeen; his three months at Pittodrie, rubbing shoulders with some of Europe's greatest players, will surely have been of immense benefit to Jean Paul.

While Slickers have always been regarded as a big-spending outfit, it is often forgotten that they produce more than their share of local talent... and this policy will certainly continue.

Eddie Thomson comments: "We have a few young boys coming along and they will be given every chance to make the first team. I am looking forward to another very good season for Sydney City."

SYDNEY CROATIA



PAUL KIRWAN

FOR seven years, Sydney Croatia have been a tremendous force in the NSW State League — but how will they handle the step-up in class in 1984?

That is the big question haunting new coach Atti Abonyi as he prepares for Croatia's debut season in the National League.

"I am confident and so are the players, but we must be realistic," said the famous former Australian World Cup star.

Luckily, 15 of last season's successful squad

have remained with Croatia, the only loss being Peter Hensman.

"He will be a big loss, of course, but Peter has had back trouble and also has business commitments so he has decided he should retire," said Abonyi.

There are now three new faces in the Croatia line-up — Paul Kirwan

from Blacktown and Steve Meades and Shane Clinch from Sutherland Shire: all have proved their ability in the State League and should be able to handle the better class in the NSL.

"Instead of playing against the second-best teams in the State, we are now going to face the best

teams in Australia. That's why we must be realistic," warned coach Abonyi. Croatia have had 23 players in pre-season training but this will be reduced to a more workable 16-man squad.

To help him decide which players to release, Atti will use the St George Stadium Super Challenge matches to give all players a chance to prove their value.

One important decision

made by Croatia concerns their home ground.

While it had been stated that they would share the Marconi Stadium, this is now unlikely to happen.

BY DAVID JACK

Croatia will have their own King Tomislav Park as their home venue and it will be up-graded to fill NSL requirements.

The improvements will

include making the pitch wider and installing extra seating plus a Press Box.

Sydney Croatia should have a useful first season in the NSL although their obvious lack of experience in national competition could mean they will have to wait a few years before becoming a powerful NSL outfit.

But with Atti Abonyi in charge, on a full-time basis, the team could not be in better hands.

WEST ADELAIDE

WEST ADELAIDE FACING A HARD SEASON

BY TOM McKAIN

WEST ADELAIDE will rely on a new coach, a new player and a veteran to carry them up the table in 1984.

The coach is Sam Salabasides, the new star is German-born Greek George Katsakas, a midfielder who has been playing in West Germany, and the veteran is Neil McGachey, making his third comeback.

He was the midfield star and captain of the line-up which took out the National League title back in 1978.

On the debit side West look like losing star centre-back Robbie Dunn and star winger Graham Heys.

They have not been training and have asked for transfers, plus lodging appeals against the fees put on their heads —

\$25,000 for Dunn and \$20,000 for Heys.

As we went to press the NSL and ASF were studying the players' protests.

Midfield strongman Micky Brennan is also out of the side, having moved to Perth after disagreements with the club committee, and full-back Bill Amey is also on the outer.

So, on paper, West appear to be weaker than they were last year, and apart from Katsakas have no plans to sign any new stars.

Katsakas moved to Adelaide recently to marry an Adelaide girl he met in West Germany.

West is currently negotiating his clearance.

Salabasides is no stranger to West. He was with them when they were Hellas and left under a cloud back in 1964 when he was involved in an incident with a referee and was banned sine die.

He appealed and returned to the field in Darwin then Greece and Darwin again where he also coached.

He then coached in Greece and took courses in West Germany and England.

Now a mellow 44, the former tearaway forward coached Greek Second Division club Apollon Kalamaras to First Division last season before returning to settle in Australia



GRAHAM HONEYMAN: comeback

with his wife and children.

West team manager, Mr Frank Karagiannis, is confident Salabasides can lift the club.

"He has the advantage of recent top European experience but also knows the limitations of Australian Soccer," said Mr Karagiannis.

However, Salabasides is promising nothing at this stage.

"I have to see what we have, and I'm glad we have the Ampol Cup series before the NSL kicks off," he said.

There were moves towards the end of last season to introduce more and more local products to the West team when coach Alan Vest and West parted company with five rounds to play.

But while many of the youngsters showed a lot of talent playing in the State League First Division it will be a different story when they have to face NSL opposition.

A lot of the burden will fall on McGachey, now 31 and returning after quitting following a nagging back injury.

However, he has been out only one season, and has looked good in training, but is expected to be

used as a defender and not in midfield in 1984.

Graham Honeyman, who announced his retirement from the national scene at the end of last season, has agreed to come back for another year.

The 30-year-old forward or midfielder is expected to join McGachey in a central defensive role for this season.

George Konstantopoulos looks like filling the central striking role with Tim Brown as his partner.

And good news for West fans is that star midfielder John Panagis is now fully fit after a hip injury which sidelined him for most of last season.

The 19-year-old whiz-kid is expected to be one of the club's top stars this season after an impressive debut in the early part of 1983.

But, on paper, this team looks top-heavy with youngsters, and as Salabasides says it is fortunate they will have a chance to prove themselves — or otherwise — in the summer night series.

Fans will be looking for a higher berth in the final NSL table than last year's thirteenth spot.

TOP STATE SIDE NEED CROWDS

BY FRED VILLIERS

THE BIGGEST problem facing Victorian State League champions Green Gully in 1984 is supporters.

ly to be the best supported club in the area.

There has been some off-season talk that Gully captain, Peter Lewis, may be moving but ASW understands the dynamic defender will remain with the club he has played so well for in recent years.

Under Lewis, Gully have won three championships in a row and with former Socceroo skipper Jim Rooney in charge, they should give a good

account of themselves this year.

The player to watch is striker Paul Lewis — a man national coach Les Scheinflug can't afford to overlook when selecting his squad this year.

Lewis produced a record number of goals for last year's Victorian State League competition and he's certain to be among the top goalscorers in the National League in 1984.

made by Croatia concerns their home ground.

While it had been stated that they would share the Marconi Stadium, this is now unlikely to happen.

BY DAVID JACK

Croatia will have their own King Tomislav Park as their home venue and it will be up-graded to fill NSL requirements.

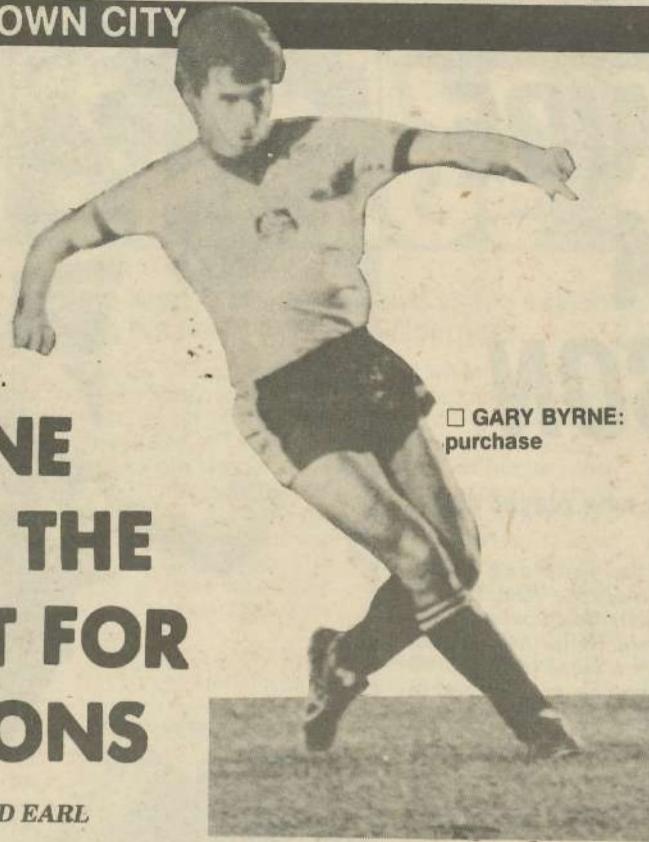
The improvements will

CROATIA'S SEVEN YEAR ITCH!



1984 NSL —

BLACKTOWN CITY



□ GARY BYRNE:
purchase

BYRNE JUST THE FIRST FOR DEMONS

BY BRAD EARL

"WE'RE going to spend money — but spend it wisely."

That's coach Casey De Bruin's summation of Blacktown City's plans for their return to the top competition after a two-year hiatus in State League.

The sponsorship the club has secured (see story this issue) enabled the Demons to splash out \$12,500 on Gary Byrne from Canberra.

"We're still at the stage of rebuilding," De Bruin said, "and we're being very selective. I want to sign four or five good players for the club."

Demons players Paul Kirwan and Peter Brogan have been training with Croatia and Penrith City

respectively, while centre-forward Barry Walker is transfer-listed.

The club is interested in signing young goalie Dave Curtis, who came on to the State League scene with Ku-ring-gai last year.

On the field, De Bruin, entering his second year with the club, wants to sign players to strengthen all three areas of play.

Looking through the retained players, it is clear that his first priority will be an experienced attacker, to lead promising youngsters Mike McLaughlin and John Larkin.

Blacktown have Cliff

Pointer, Tony Rasmussen and Rob Wheatley in the backline and Stuart Selvage, John Stoddart and now Byrne in midfield.

And De Bruin has the back-up of young players such as Micky Quaraby, Anthony Welbourne and Brett Thorntwaite who will be eager for an NSL chance.

Right-flank goalscorer, Robbie Slater, is expected back from England soon after a short stint with Nottingham Forest. Slater has been playing in Forest's reserves, and has been scoring goals regularly.

Meanwhile, Arok has enticed some fresh blood into the St George camp.

One player is an exciting 21-year-old striker, and there is also a set of three English brothers likely to join the Club.

The three Englishmen are what Arok calls

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

ST GEORGE'S mission to retain their championship title has been made that much harder now that their social club has instructed the Soccer committee that there will be no money for 1984.

The social club directors have budgeted for large expenditure to refurbish the club premises.

Manager-coach Frank Arok has re-signed all his 1983 NSL squad, with the exception of Peter Stone and Mark Barton.

Right-flank goalscorer, Robbie Slater, is expected back from England soon after a short stint with Nottingham Forest. Slater has been playing in Forest's reserves, and has been scoring goals regularly.

Meanwhile, Arok has enticed some fresh blood into the St George camp.

One player is an exciting 21-year-old striker, and there is also a set of three English brothers likely to join the Club.

The three Englishmen are what Arok calls



□ ROB SLATER WITH COACH AROK

complete withdrawal from Soccer, don't be surprised if the 28-year-old is convinced otherwise.

Terry announced his retirement from the code to spend time with his wife

and two children whom he feels he has neglected.

Though the Saints have had their finances cut back, they should still be a force to be reckoned with in 1984.

GEORGE CROSS

GEORGIE RACING THE CLOCK

BY FRED VILLIERS

GEORGE CROSS is racing against time to be ready for the kick-off during the first week of March.

Club president Alf Zahra said: "We have so much to do before the first League game, but we will be ready."

"We have to erect a fence around our Anderson Street, Sunshine, ground, finish our dressing-rooms and complete the extinctions to our social rooms as well as upgrade the terraces. But it will be ready," he said.

The club have signed former Preston keeper Steve Potter and hope to include Doveton midfielder John Dowie in their line-up this year. Dowie is overseas on holiday and apart from Georgie, Juventus have also shown interest in him.

The club has a big Maltese following and unfortunately for them they

have not been included in the Summer Cup competition because they finished fifth in the State League (only the top four have been invited to play).

But they have been offered a game "against a big crowd-pulling club" as the curtain-raiser to the Cup final at Olympic Park.

Coach Traynor will have his work cut out to produce a winning side this year and he will expect big things from Carl Gilder, who'll lead the strike force again.

The club will certainly draw a big crowd whenever they play Maltese rivals Green Gully, as more than 4,000 saw their last home game against the State League champions last year.

But the breakthrough came last week, when



□ GLENN AHEARN

City attempted to sign the Grange Thistle midfielder last year but negotiations became hopelessly deadlocked with the Premier League club remaining firm on a hefty transfer fee — \$10,000 at one stage.

But the breakthrough

BY GREG RUSSELL

JOE GILROY has taken over a mixed bag at Brisbane City.

At this stage the club has made only two signings, including Newcastle striker Bob Mountford (finalised before Jim Hermiston's decision to leave).

The City squad has been bolstered by the signing on loan of dual Rothmans Medal winner Ken Swan.

While Bobby Hamilton is almost certain to return to the City squad, Frank Pimblett has remained aloof and has not stated his intentions.

Billy Williamson was only on loan to City from Lions, and now has been transfer-listed at \$4,000. The former Dundee striker was one of Gilroy's major buys while at Lions and it would not surprise to see him attempt to bring Williamson back to Spencer Park.

Lions full-back Bobby McSkimming, another Gilroy favourite, is also on the transfer list and he too could make the move across the river.

Former Lions youngster Tom McGregor, who had an outstanding year with Olympic in the Pre-

City agreed to a pre-set transfer fee should they want to take up an option to buy Swan at the end of this year.

Young Sydney City defender Warren Haslam was also expected in Brisbane this month for trials.

On the debit side, the only player who looks like wanting a move away from Spencer Park is former Leichhardt midfielder Allan Hughes, who reportedly has been negotiating with two local Premier League clubs.

City will also be without reserve keeper Glenn Ahearn, the former Australian Youth team and Sydney City custodian, who is recovering from injuries sustained in a car accident which killed his father and sister.

City's chances of success this season were enhanced when captain Frank Liddell, the team's outstanding player last season, scrapped plans to return to Scotland.

But with a new coach bringing a new style, things could start slowly for City this year.

Gilroy proved with Lions that he can get results but it is hard to see the Gladiators any higher than mid-table.



□ BOB MOUNTFORD:
signing

TEAM PROSPECTS

NEWCASTLE KB UTD

CAN KB KEEP DAVID LOWE?

BY MYLES HAY

FRAUGHT with similar financial problems affecting many clubs in the NSL, Newcastle KB United may be forced to transfer talented young striker David Lowe.

Every effort will be made to retain the brilliant forward, but whether he will accept the reduced playing fee being offered to retained players has not been resolved.

It is known that Les Scheinflug at Marconi has a high regard for the ability of Lowe.

At a meeting early last week the directors of the club, under acting president Mr Ivor Thirwell, outlined the seriousness of Newcastle's financial situation and set out the match payment details for the coming season.

It appears likely that any player who refuses to accept the revised scale of

playing fees will be placed on the transfer list, a measure which will be done with great reluctance.

The 1983 season proved a successful one for the club on the field, the side remaining in the top half of the competition table throughout the year.

With the same side, coach Ken Kaiser was hoping for an even better performance this year, with the addition of another goalscorer and midfielder.

English imports Gary Watson and Peter Burke, who proved so effective in the middle of the defence, are needed but it seems

that only Burke will be returning to Newcastle.

Bob Mountford, who assisted Kaiser in the coaching duties last season, returned to England at the end of last season and he has been linked with Brisbane City.

While that dreaded word "liquidation" has been bandied around the district for the past few months, the directors of Newcastle KB United have worked hard to ward off pressing creditors, making arrangements to keep the club afloat, and a combined effort by players and supporters will now be needed in a rescue attempt.



□ DAVID LOWE: ability

PRESTON

OLLERTON WANTS FOUR NEW MEN

BY CON NIKOLOPOULOS

PRESTON manager Peter Ollerton has been scanning the market for four players in his new bid to mould a championship-winning side before the season kicks off.

"I have been scouting for two months now and I am close to signing four established players before the official start of the championship."

"Once they fill their names on the dotted line we will be ready to give the championship a very good shot," says Ollerton.

Preston collapsed in the most crucial stages of last year's championship after leading the competition for 20 weeks, and Ollerton is working frantically to broaden the base of his team.

"Our collapse can be attributed to a number of factors," says Ollerton, "one being lack of capable reserves to fill the vacancies in our team. I have selected the players I need and hope I will have them preparing with the rest of the side within the next fortnight."

Ollerton is concentrating on two central defenders to fill the gaps left by George Todorovski and David Jones.

Todorovski returned to Yugoslavia and Jones abandoned his career in the National League to join his company in West Australia.

Gary Ward and Richard Miranda also moved from Preston to Juventus and star forward Claude Lucchesi is uncertain about his future at Preston.

"I don't know at this stage whether Claude will be staying at Preston," says Ollerton.

"He has not renewed his contract and his future with our club hinges on the outcome of his negotiations with the committee of management," explains Ollerton.

Australia's most prolific goalscorer decides to move from Olympic Village. His acquisition would strengthen Preston's forward-line.



□ DAVID JONES: to WA

SYDNEY CROATIA

HENNESSEY CRACKS WHIP AT CROATIA

BY FRED VILLIERS

THE BIGGEST thing to happen to this well-supported club has been the appointment of Terry Hennessey as manager-coach.

Hennessey, who played 39 times for his homeland, having been captain on 20 occasions, has introduced new ideas in training methods for the club.

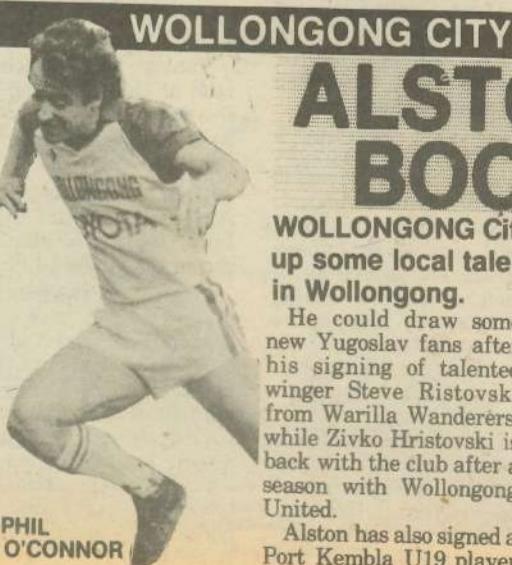
He arrived from Tulsa, USA, where he coached the side to the North American Soccer League championship for the first time.

Hennessey, 41, is like a ringmaster at the circus during his training sessions. He's a delight to watch.

Among new recruits are

a South American, a Polish mid-fielder and a young Australian mid-fielder-striker all waiting for the nod from Hennessey who is expected to give them a run in pre-season practice matches.

Under Hennessey, youngsters George Radman and Steve Gojevic are expected to make rapid progress, and so too is the team which finished runners-up to Green Gully in the State League last year.



□ PHIL O'CONNOR

ALSTON WANTS TO BOOST CROWDS

WOLLONGONG City coach Adrian Alston has been trying to sign up some local talent in a bid to draw more people to NSL games in Wollongong.

He could draw some new Yugoslav fans after his signing of talented winger Steve Ristovski from Warilla Wanderers, while Zivko Hristovski is back with the club after a season with Wollongong United.

Alston has also signed a Port Kembla U19 player

Frank Ciocci, who is reported to have plenty of ability.

The pre-season squabbles with his experienced players (see story this issue) has certainly made Alston's preparations for the Ampol Cup something of a nightmare.

It is certainly some-

thing the former World Cup striker could have done without, but he is

BY PHIL MURPHY

confident things will get back on the rails for the start of the premiership.

The only major loss in

the off-season has been striker Roy Cotton, who followed last year's coach Willie Wallace to Penrith.

Providing the players in dispute are able to come to terms with the board, the team should not differ much from 1983.

International winger Phil O'Connor wants a transfer, but it is a simple matter of no club being able to afford him at the moment.

If he refuses to play with the Wolves the two front-runners who will get their chance will be Glenn Fontana and Scott Dickson.



1984 NSL —

SYDNEY OLYMPIC

OLYMPIC TO REAP BENEFITS OF BIG SPENDING

BY MIKE MYSTAKIDIS

THE ATMOSPHERE around Sydney Olympic — despite their big financial problems — is smoke-free at the beginning of the season.

Last year the club directors used the technique of "spending money to make money" in order to produce a strong team to gain public acceptance.

Their goal was partly fulfilled. The team, under Tommy Docherty, started badly, but finished gloriously by winning the National Cup with Docherty's successor, Manfred Schaefer.

With that achievement, Olympic's vast supporters believe that at long last their team has come out of its long coma and the time is now right to show the Soccer public its strength.

Coach Schaefer, who took charge last August, is optimistic for a great season.

He believes Olympic has all the material needed and the support of

the large Greek community to assume a leading role in the new competition. Of course the Super Challenge Cup and the Ampol Cup are Schaefer's priorities just for a good start.

Club officials also attribute their dreams for success to the stability which has prevailed in the last five years.

Sydney Olympic last year recorded a large deficit of \$500,000, exactly as ASW predicted in last year's first issue. This year club directors are counting every cent to save money needed to buy no more than one player in special circumstances.

A blow for the Olympians is the loss of two centre defenders — New Zealand international Ricky Herbert and Jim Ziras, who is on the trans-

fer list (\$14,000) for an unknown reason.

Socceroo Peter Katholos was placed on the transfer list last week, but it was hoped differences would be settled at a meeting held last night.

For Schaefer, discipline is the keyword. He set some tough guidelines for his players and expects everyone to abide by them.

Apart from Mike Coady, who is still in England and will return on February 28, the team will line-up with last year's regulars: Gary Meier, Peter Wilson (goalies), Martyn Rogers, Graham Jennings, Tony Dakos, Mike Coady, George Akoutas (defence), Gary Phillips, Jim Patikas, Peter Raskopoulos, Peter Katholos (midfield) and Terry Patalis, Marshall Soper, Mark Koussas and Chris Kalantzis (strikers).



□ CHARLIE EGAN: senior

PENRITH CITY

NO PANIC AT PENRITH

BY BRAD EARL

DESPITE having signed only a few players so far, there is no sign of panic at Penrith City.

Willie Wallace, coach of the new side, is in the process of trimming down the summer training contingent.

Wallace, an exponent of attacking football as a player and a coach, hopes to do just that to attract the support of the local people in Penrith City's inaugural year.

One of the club's strongest arguments for their controversial acceptance into the NSL was the expected crowd support in the ever-growing region.

And by playing at Cook Park, St Marys, they should draw plenty of support from the Mt Druitt - St Clair area as well as in Penrith and the lower Blue Mountains.

Roy Cotton, who established himself as a top goalscorer with Wollongong City, has been signed for a \$7,000 transfer fee.

It is hoped he will form a lethal combination with 22-year-old Ian Hunter, as negotiations are underway with Marconi. The Fairfield club placed a \$20,000 fee on Hunter.

Left-back Micky Cross and central defender Paul Daley have been signed from Melita for \$5,000 and \$2,500 respectively.

The team will no doubt take time to mould into a strong combination, but they will be very fit with former Australian international Stan Ackerley on the staff as trainer.



□ IAN HUNTER: negotiations

SOUTH MELBOURNE

SOUTH SET FOR TITLE TILT

BY CON NIKOLOPOULOS

SOUTH Melbourne have launched their campaign with a set target, the 1984 title.

Arguably the strongest side in the southern section of the National League, they are preparing for an assault on the title right from the word go.

"For the first time in our history in the NSL, we start the season with a clean sheet," says club president Leo Anezakis, referring to the miraculous financial recovery of his club last year.

"We are up-to-date with all our payments and have allocated a certain amount of money to purchases of players. In addition we have the strongest team and the best coach in the business."

"Our supporters have never had such tremendous guarantees for success," concludes Anezakis.

So far South Melbourne have invested very little money on players: the only addition to the squad has been Victoria's most promising youngster Con Ciakos.

Ciakos won the Michael Weinstein Award, a perpetual award presented to the best junior of the season for his excellence at club level as well as for his tremendous performances with the Victorian youth team in the national championships.

Coach Len McKendry, however, has plans for another three players: a defender, a midfielder and a forward.

The retirement of the great Branko Buljevic, the overseas venture of Alan Davidson and the unavailability of Arthur Xanthopoulos due to injury, have made it necessary for McKendry to search for replacements.

Heidelberg midfielder Jim Campbell and Green Gully forward Paul Lewis figure prominently in McKendry's plans.

Both players have worked for McKendry in the past and are willing to join him at South Melbourne.

"We are not desperate," says McKendry. "We have enough players at Middle Park to form one of the strongest sides in the competition."

McKendry is referring to his most senior players, John Yerdoorn, Kenny Murphy, Doug Brown, Steve Blair, Charlie Egan, Bobby Russell and the like, who will form the strong basis for South Melbourne's title challenge.

HEIDELBERG

CUP FINALISTS IN A MESS

BY CON NIKOLOPOULOS

UNLESS a miracle occurs within the next few weeks, Heidelberg United will struggle for survival in this year's championship.

Player disenchantment, lack of planning for the season, limited finances and paralysing administration, paint a very gloomy picture of their future.

Their newly-appointed manager-coach Brian Garvey will have to battle against many odds when he assumes duties.

His most challenging task will be to convince some of his key players to stay at Olympic Village.

Gary Cole, Jim Campbell and Jim Tansey served an ultimatum to their committee, stating categorically their desire to leave Heidelberg if the club does not recruit players for some key positions.

Cole has become the target for Preston; Campbell is contemplating joining his former boss Len McKendry at South Melbourne and Tansey is free

to transfer to a team of his choice, willing to pay the amount stipulated in his contract.

Another serious problem awaiting solution is that of the centre-half vacancy, left by Charlie Yankos.

Yankos left for England at the beginning of the month for trials with Second Division club, Brighton.

Their top goalscorer Derek Lea has left for England, leaving a glaring gap in the forward-line.

Financially, Heidelberg president Sam Goulopoulos predicted a tough year, due to the deficit from last year's operations.

Their reluctance to approach established players confirms their inability to spend big money on players they so desperately need.

TEAM PROSPECTS



□ MARK BROWN (left): youth

FOOTSCRAY

HARD WORK OF '83 SHOULD PAY OFF

BY CON NIKOLOPOULOS

When Bobby McLachlan started reshaping the Footscray team, the critics argued Bobby was pushing water uphill.

The magic touch of the determined Scot, however, awakened the dormant giant and Footscray staged a miraculous recovery in last year's championship.

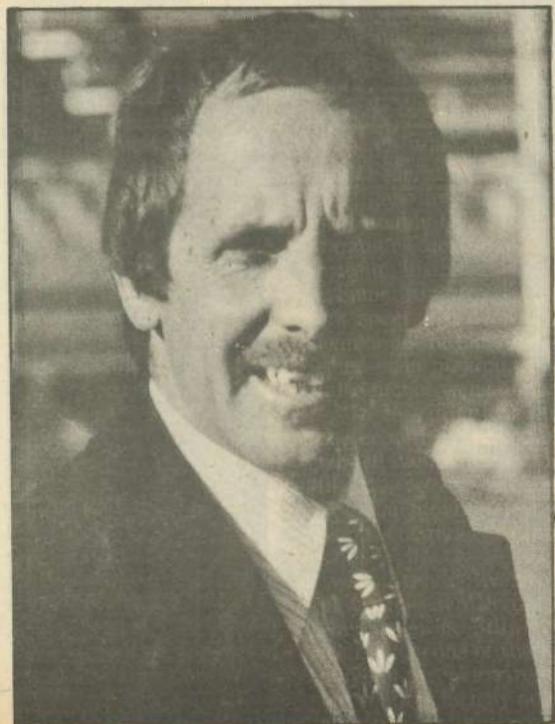
"We are extremely optimistic for the new season," says McLachlan. "We worked hard enough last year to create a strong foundation and we are building on it now."

"People don't think much of Footscray be-

cause we do not advertise our successes or invest big money on players. I warned them not to treat us with contempt because they will suffer serious consequences.

"We are not big spenders, but good investors," says McLachlan, pointing to some of his brilliant recruits from last year, Joe Carroll, Graham Tutill, Garry McDowell, Jamie Paton, Brian O'Donnell.

Add to these players the



□ BOBBY McLACHLAN: determined

experience of Dennis Bolland, Kyri Kyriakouleas, Zdravko Lujic, Kenny Taylor, and the talent of young Vlatko Belic, Suliman Curovic, Paul Simic and Slodoban Stojcevski and you have a perfectly balanced side, capable of beating any opponent.

McLachlan has reinforced his defence with the acquisition of a central defender from Makedonia Perth, Jim Davis.

A solid defender, Davis

will compete for a position

in the centre of the de-

fence, next to either

Tutill, McDowell or

Kyriakouleas.

Another addition to the

squad is young Tasmanian midfielder Jim Nichols.

Nichols may fill the gap

left by Slodoban

Jovanovic, currently

trialling with Sunshine

George Cross.

Also missing from last year's squad are defender Vladimir Pljevaljcic, back to Yugoslavia, and target man Gus MacLeod. MacLeod left Footscray at the end of the season and has taken charge of Fawkner in the Victorian State League.

Footscray president Zeka Karic is another notorious optimist.

"We are raring to go," says Karic, "and looking forward to a great season."

"We have not recruited

LEICHHARDT

LEICHHARDT RELY ON THEIR YOUTH

BY ANDREW PASCHALIDIS

LEICHHARDT have re-appointed first grade coach Fil Bottalico for the 1984 season and due to financial limitations he has decided not to go into the transfer market and will rely on his promising young players.

With prices for players on the transfer market at an all-time high, Bottalico realises the importance of offering places in the first grade line-up to players who deserve them.

Four youngsters that he will heavily rely on are Robert Catlin, Tony Genovese, Carlo Spina and Ennio Morson.

Catlin, an 18-year-old goalkeeper and NSW representative, will be placing a great deal of pressure on first choice keeper Bobby Parkes.

Spina, a defensive player, has also represented

NSW and at only 16 has a big future ahead of him.

Genovese, another NSW representative, will be fighting for a vital position in the frontline and 18-year-old midfielder

Ennio Morson appeared in the first grade side a couple of times last season.

Players placed on transfer are Australian rep-

representative goalkeeper

Greg Woodhouse, midfiel- der Zdenko Kafka and de- fender Rod Skellern. Walter Valeri has returned back to his family and home in Canberra.

Once again Leichhardt will be lead by the experience of Terry Butler, John Bradley, Arno Bertogna and Peter Tredinnick, aided by the youth of Mark Brown and Ian Gray.

Bottalico is quietly op- timistic about the new season.

"We will be trying our best this season and I hope the supporters will be patient with us this year.

"Everyone wants to win and hopefully this can be achieved with the experience and youth we have at APIA," Bottalico con- cluded.

CANBERRA ARROWS

COLLINS' BROOM GOES TO WORK

BY BERNIE HARRIS

CANBERRA ARROWS lost no time in putting the disappointing results of 1983 behind them.

The tranquil peace of the season's twilight was shattered when new coach Doug Collins, within two weeks of taking up his task, swept the broom through the Arrows cupboard and soon had more than \$130,000 worth of players transfer-listed.

Latecomers to the list were captain and arguably the top sweeper in Australia, Terry Byrne, Ian Gibson and youth international goalkeeper,

Chris Hummel.

Byrne, Gibson and Steve Bryant were among the few Arrows players to be offered terms for 1984. Bryant left Canberra for a holiday without confirming his future to Collins, but to everyone's relief he re-signed two weeks ago.

However, Byrne and Gibson rejected the offers which in their coach's words was 'not negotiable'.

Gibson trenchantly criticised Collins on local television before leaving for an overseas holiday.

Collins has gathered a strong body of players to his new club including four youngsters from the Institute of Sport — youth international goalkeeper Tony Franken, defender Roy Jones, Ray Junna and John Mihailidis.

Steve Hogg hopes to transfer from Brisbane Lions to his former club and Danny Moulis has resumed training after his layoff through injury with the expectation of rejoining his old club if he recovers full match fitness.

Collins has gained Andrew Brockbank, whom he describes as the best left sided player in Australia, and has hopes for two other players from the NSW State League.

An appeal by Marconi's Tommy Sermanni against a transfer fee of \$20,000 was scheduled this week and Collins will be at the forefront in seeking his services.

And the most tantalising question of all — the future of youth international striker, Frank Farina — will be answered if Farina appeals against the transfer fee of \$20,000 imposed on him by Queensland club Mareeba. Collins also has hopes of luring Newcastle's David Lowe to the ACT.

President Charles Perkins sees in Collins the man to bring a commitment to a youth policy in fruition.

Collins wants at least a top of the middle of the table position, but in my view the team has the potential to give any aspiring table topper a run for its money.

BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS

MONEY TO BURN

BY FRED VILLIERS

MELBOURNE'S leading Italian club have been on a big spending spree since the news that they had been accepted into the National League.

Biggest buy is former Croydon City striker Joe Sweeney, a robust, strong, bustling centre-forward.

It looks as if Sweeney will replace Graham French, who could join Croydon in the State League this season.

Another top signing has been the blond-haired Preston winger Gary Ward, who formerly starred for Vancouver Whitecaps in the North American Soccer League.

One wonders how powerful the Juventus attack will be if it clicks. With Sweeney, Ward and Robert "Tiger" Cullen up front and Australian Youth international Fab Incantalupo coming from behind, the sky is the limit for this club.

Club team manager, Joe Caruso, says: "We're expecting big things from our front-runners. We have a first-class committee and a first-class team. I believe we will attract at least 3,000 regular sup-

porters this year."

The popular Bannon brothers — Vince, Pat and Ged — have all signed for another season while the young, flying winger Andrew Zinni has impressed sun-tanned coach Johnny Margaritis (just back from a well-

earned holiday) during training.

The club haven't finished recruiting and they have their eye on Box Hill's South African midfielder Richard Miranda, but at the time of writing Miranda was still playing hard to get.



□ THE BANNONS: PAT (top left), VINCE and GED (left)

CHIT CHAT



THE NSW Soccer Federation has made an important appointment to its backroom staff.

Johnny Thomson, one of the code's best-known characters, will look after Press and Public Relations for the Federation this year.

Thomson has been closely connected with Sydney Olympic since the start of the National League and, indeed, was the man mainly responsible for the launching of that club.

Previously, Johnny held office on the Federation executive after ending his career as a player, coach and club president.

The biggest "plus" is the excellent relationship Johnny Thomson has always had with the media in NSW. This makes him a natural for his new position.

■ ■ ■

NSW STATE League club Warringah-Narrabeen third grade coach Harry Rimmer and first grade brothers Michael and John McDonagh have much in common.

Both have relatives who have played international Soccer in Europe.

Harry Rimmer's cousin is former Manchester United, Arsenal, Aston Villa and England keeper Jimmy Rimmer.

The McDonagh's brother Jim is at present the Notts County and Ireland goalkeeper.

An amazing double.

■ ■ ■

IT has been a long wait for top Sydney Croatia players like Steve Watson, Curly Kovacic and Bruno Vidaic.

Long recognised as outstanding performers, they have always had a yearning to prove themselves in top company.

They could never do that in the State League — and that's why they are keenly looking forward to the NSL kick-off.

Goalkeeper Watson overcame the "handicap" of playing in the State competition to win international honours for Australia.

IT'S STILL a stand-off between West Adelaide and former Socceroo goalkeeper Martyn Crook.

The big blond custodian has not trained with the club and has refused terms for 1984.

Gary Sproul, who was signed on loan from State League team Croatia when Crook was injured last year, has been signed on in a straight transfer deal.

■ ■ ■

ADELAIDE's two NSL clubs are battling to sign the same player — Polonia's star midfielder Jan Kierno, imported from Poland three years ago.

He wants to join the NSL, but word is Polonia is threatening to send him back to Poland if he does not agree to play for them again in the State League First Division.

■ ■ ■

AMONG the new signings made by Wollongong City coach Adrian Alston is former Fernhill and Fairy Meadow full-back Grant Isedale.

The Isedale family have been well-known in Illawarra Soccer for years and Grant is doing a good job holding up the name.

A strong defender who likes to overlap when he gets a chance, Isedale also has a good scoring record for a full-back.

Alston has been impressed by Isedale's enthusiasm and ability and he could easily make his first team debut in the Ampol Cup.

A COACHING course at Flinders in Victoria attracted 33 candidates this month.

The course was attended by West Australian director of coaching Ron Tindall and was organised by Victorian director of coaching Tim White.

Former Melbourne Croatia coach John Gardiner also assisted.

"WE KEEP the country on the move."

That is how Wollongong City midfielder Larry Gaffney describes the role he plays when he isn't on the Soccer field.

Gaffney is employed along with three other Wolves' players — Phil O'Connor, Jeff Ainsworth and Chris Dunleavy — on the railways.

They are currently working on the electrification of the line between Waterfall and Wollongong.

Gaffney is confident he will be a bit faster getting to the ball in the new season.

"I am sharpening up dodging trains," he said.

■ ■ ■

ALTHOUGH there were suggestions of committee changes at Sydney Croatia, the popular Tony Topic will remain as president for 1984.

Topic guided the club into the NSL and it is fitting that he should stay as boss man in Croatia's first season in that competition.

NOT so long ago, Allan Maher was one of the best known Soccer stars in Australia but since losing his first team goalkeeping place at Marconi to Bruce James, Maher has faded from the scene.

Big "Spider" is still around and still with Marconi.

He has been doing pre-season training but the club has not offered him a new contract.

Maher would be a useful signing for any club although he admits he is very involved, and interested in, the coaching side of the game these days.

Strangely enough, Maher looks like surrendering his international spot as well as his club place to the same man, Bruce James.

■ ■ ■

SYDNEY CITY surprised plenty of people when they decided to release Kevin Mullen on a free transfer.

Mullen, a most consistent performer, was still rated Australia's best right-back by some folk last season.

Coach Eddie Thomson explained the decision to part with Mullen: "We are now working on a tight budget and, if any new players are to be signed, we must reduce the wages bill."

It is known, however, that Thomson and Mullen did not always see eye to eye towards the end of last season.

■ ■ ■

SOUTHAMPTON have asked Marconi to allow Tommy McCulloch to remain with their reserve team for two more weeks past the original termination date of February 1.

The English First Division club want to see McCulloch in action in a few more games, as he was out injured for a month.

Tommy reports that he is thoroughly enjoying his stay, and he has been treated very well by Southampton.

AS WELL as turning the National Soccer League scene on its ear in Canberra with his purchases and transfer-listings, coach Doug Collins has just completed the move from Sydney to Canberra with his family.

During the first few weeks of his two-year contract with the Arrows, Collins commuted between the ACT and Sydney at weekends while house-hunting and awaiting the end of the school year.

In the ACT, he "boarded" with the Arrows new promotions manager, former Canberra City coach and Australian Soccer legend Johnny Warren, at Warren's Gold Creek Homestead. Both Collins and his family are enthusiastic about life in Canberra, and the icing on the cake obviously will be a turnaround in the fortunes of the Arrows and a return to the bumper crowds of several years ago.

■ ■ ■

NEIL BANFIELD, the former England Youth team sweeper, may not return from England to rejoin Adelaide City.

He was due here for the SA Ampol Cup night series after playing for Orient in England's Third Division, but has written saying he will stay on to help Orient gain promotion as they are among the leaders.

Banfield signed a new two-year contract to play with City if he returns to Australia.

■ ■ ■

VICTORIA's State side that played West Berlin tourists at Olympic Park, Melbourne, were without Doug Brown (South Melbourne) on honeymoon, Charlie Yankos (Heidelberg) in England training with Brighton, Charlie Egan (South Melbourne) and Ian Dobson (Croatia) who are both in the UK on holiday.

State coach Tim White was not worried as he had adequate replacements in Steve Blair, John Yzenboorn and Keith Adams to name a few.

STAND by for a big splash in the ACT when sponsorship for the Canberra Arrows is announced in mid-February.

A major venue is proposed for the function, which will herald not one but at least three sponsors for the local team. Promotions manager Johnny Warren is tight lipped at the moment after discussions and negotiations with several interested parties in the ACT and interstate, but a reliable guess is that Lotto of NSW will continue its involvement with the Arrows and two national companies will add their resources to the Canberra team.

Local involvement by certain companies is also a distinct possibility.

ALAN VEST, West Adelaide coach who split with the club with five weeks to go of the 1983 season, is back in the game.

He is coaching Perth's Athena and has called up several of his former West signings — Mick Brennan, Paul Wormley and Dave Evans, who are all in WA along with former State League player Barrie Smith who was with SA's Campbelltown.



■ STEVE BLAIR



■ ALLAN MAHER saves for Marconi last year (photo by DAVID JELLINGS)



■ BRUNO VIDAIC in NSW Grand Final action

SUCCESS IN SINGAPORE

AUSTRALIA won the second Merlion Cup tournament in Singapore because the players produced typical Australian fighting spirit and will-to-win when these virtues were most required.

IT was a victory which should have made every Australian proud and, as team coach, I have nothing but praise for the way the boys set about their difficult task of winning this major trophy on foreign soil.

Even before we took off from Sydney Airport, I warned the players that they would find it terribly difficult retaining the Cup which they had won a year earlier.

In particular, I was concerned about the challenge from China.

There is no doubt China is set to become THE dominant force in Asian Soccer and I admit I had some misgivings when the Socceroos were drawn to play them in our opening match in the Singapore National Stadium.

The other teams in our Group were Thailand and

Singapore "B." They appeared much simpler hurdles — if anything is simple for us when we play in Asia.

It was obvious from the start that China were a very skilful side — and were better prepared than any other team in the tournament.

They are full-time players and, against an Aus-

wholesale team changes. Nobody was dropped.

Our next assignment was against the Singapore "B" team. On paper, this looked an easy match for Australia but it did not turn out that way.

We won only by the barest margin, 1 — 0. The result, however, did not tell the true story.

Australia hit the wood-

Group, our final match was against Thailand. They are not one of the leaders in Asian football, but I was impressed by their skills and, unlike Singapore "B," they did mount a few attacks.

It was very hot and humid, following a lot of rain. Australia won 2 — 0, the goals coming from Kosmina in the 26th minute and Ken Murphy in the 76th.

• • • •
Australia were in the semi-final in which our opponents were old rivals South Korea.

We led 1 — 0 at half-time and finally ran out victors by 3 — 1, the goals being provided by Kosmina (19 mts), Phil O'Connor (58) and Jimmy Cant (74).

This was a very rough contest...with the Koreans determined to keep us out of the final at all cost.

I believe Korea made a big mistake when they started to get rough. Nothing upsets an Australian player more than having to take punishment like kicking, tripping and even head-butting.

The Socceroos decided that, if that was the way Korea wanted to play, two teams could mix it with equal aggression. We won the fight — and the match.

With Asian referees controlling matches involving Asian teams, it is not always easy to wear the green and gold of Australia. No favours were given to us by the referee. He refused a legitimate appeal for a penalty when Kosmina was chopped down from behind after only five minutes.

We knew what to expect from that point.

Australia won their place in the Merlion Cup Final by beating South Korea 3 — 1 and I am convinced the Koreans surrendered all hope of winning when they employed questionable tactics against an Aussie side which hates being roughed up.

• • • •
The Final, played in a packed stadium (70,000 spectators), was a memorable match.

It was televised live to Australia, thanks to 0—28, and was a real thriller.

Australia's opponents were the home team, Singapore, so it was clear which side would have the inspiration of 70,000 fans roaring it to victory.

The result was 4 — 2 to Australia although I would be the first to admit we had a few anxious moments before that excellent result was achieved.

Indeed, Singapore were first to score when a mix-up in the Australian defence presented them with a simple goal.

Some people thought the goal was offside. Certainly our defence set an offside trap, but it did not work. We were a goal in arrears.

This was soon remedied. Great goals by Joe Watson, an individual effort, and John Kosmina, who smartly headed home a cross from Watson, gave the Socceroos a 2 — 1 advantage at half-time.

Singapore, however, were not finished. They fought back well in the second half and, inspired by the marvellous crowd, equalised at 2 — 2. For a time, I was worried. No doubt viewers in Australia shared my feelings!

This was the time for typical Aussie grit and determination to reveal itself. And that's exactly what happened.

Magnificent goals by

BY
LES
SCHEINFLUG

(in an interview
with
David Jack)



Jimmy Campbell and Phil O'Connor settled the issue and we ran out convincing 4 - 2 winners of the Cup.

• • • •

Looking back now on the expedition to Singapore, I can only say I am very happy about the way things turned out.

While I don't like making comparisons between players, I would have to name John Kosmina as the player of the tour.

The Socceroo skipper took a lot of punishment in all matches and came up with very important goals when required.

He was top scorer with five goals.

It was a blow after the final when Terry Greedy told me he was retiring from football and would no longer be available for the national squad.

Terry says he wants to spend more time on his domestic affairs but perhaps he will have a change of mind.

I have no specific replacement goalkeeper in

mind. The position will go to the best man who is in top form when the squad gets together again.

This week the Australian World Cup sub-committee will get together to discuss what comes next for the national squad following our success in Singapore.

Like any national coach, I want the team to have as much international competition as possible. I should also like plenty of training camps to prepare the boys for the huge job of qualifying for the 1986 World Cup in Mexico.

Whether or not I get what I want is another matter.

The team did everything required of it in Singapore but that was only the start of the long haul to Mexico.

One point I must stress...time is NOT on our side. World Cup qualifying matches must be tackled next year and that's why the planning has to start immediately.

SOCEROO LINE-UP IN ALL MATCHES

CHINA v AUSTRALIA THAILAND v AUSTRALIA
3—12—83 10—12—83

Greedy, Yankos, Ratcliffe, S.O'Connor, Jennings, Henderson, Katholos, Tredinnick, Watson, Kosmina, P.O'Connor.
Substitution...Murphy for Watson (58 mts).

SINGAPORE B v AUSTRALIA 7—12—83

Greedy, Yankos, Ratcliffe, S.O'Connor, Jennings, Henderson, Katholos, Tredinnick, Jankovics, Kosmina, P.O'Connor.
Substitution...Murphy for Katholos (46 mts) and Campbell for Tredinnick (66 mts).

SINGAPORE v AUSTRALIA 17—12—83
Greedy, Yankos, Ratcliffe, S.O'Connor, Jennings, Cant, Katholos, Murphy, Watson, Kosmina, P.O'Connor.
Substitution...Campbell for Katholos (58 mts) and Tredinnick for Watson (79 mts).



JOHN KOSMINA in Merlion Cup action

NSW 'CHAMPS' MAKE DEBUT

BY ANDREW PASHALIDIS

AT SYDNEY'S St George Stadium, Melita, St George, Croatia and Sydney Olympic kicked-off the 1984 season in the Super Challenge Cup competition last weekend.

The four teams in the series had each won competitions during the 1983 season.

Sydney Olympic completed their most successful year in the NSL, winning the National Cup. St George won the NSL in one of the closest finishes since its inception.

Parramatta Melita won the NSW State League in the last round by defeating Polonia 7-0. Sydney Croatia, who led the competition for most of the year, gained revenge by defeating the Eagles on penalties in the Grand Final replay.

This year's competition will not collide with the Ampol Cup and all fixtures bar the final will be double headers at St George Stadium.

A great incentive for each team is the \$5,000

prizemoney for the winners. The team that finishes second receives \$2,500, third \$1,500 and fourth \$1,000.

St George coach Frank Arok is confident that this year's competition will be even more successful than last year.

"The best supported teams in Sydney will be playing and we can expect large crowds. I am quite certain if we have good weather, crowds of over 5,000 can be expected," Arok said.

On his team's chances in the competition, Arok continued:

"We have suffered some set backs in our playing strength during the off-season. Terry Greedy has decided to retire; Paul Wilkinson has returned to England and Robbie Slater looks like staying with

Nottingham Forest for longer than anticipated.

"All the other players are ready for the tournament and at this stage, the teams will be fairly equal," added Arok.

St George have suffered a major setback in their bid to win the NSL for the second year in a row. The licensed club will not be providing financial assistance during the 1984 season.

Melita coach Raul Blanco feels that the tournament will be a good way of discovering how strong his side is compared to the experienced NSL clubs.

"I think it's a marvellous opportunity to play the current champions. It will be good to see how we equip ourselves in this type of competition and it gives an opportunity for

our new faces to stand out," Blanco said.

Atti Abonyi, back at Croatia after a brief stint with Canberra Arrows in the NSL last year is looking at the competition as a means of gaining match fitness and testing out a number of players.

"We've been in training for three weeks and it would be too much to expect the boys to go flat out. It's a great opportunity to try different players in different positions and also weigh up our new opposition in the NSL," Abonyi said.

One of the most interesting aspects of the competition is the background of all four coaches. Each has been associated with the St George club as a player or coach and their battles should be a great test of tactics and fitness.



□ Melita Eagles defender Bobby McGinn shields the ball from Sydney Olympic striker Marshall Soper in Super Challenge Cup action

CONTROVERSY FOR OLYMPIC

BY ANDREW PASHALIDIS

SYDNEY OLYMPIC started their 1984 campaign with a controversial 2-1 victory over Parramatta Melita in the Super Challenge Cup at St George Stadium.

Melita, newly promoted to the NSL, played with determination despite the absence of Ray Farrugia and Alex Jamieson in the midfield and the transfer of Mickey Cross and Paul Daley to Penrith City.

Melita were in control for the opening 30 minutes and were rewarded with two goalscorers opportunities.

Melita were unlucky not to hit the lead in the 8th minute. A lapse of concentration in the Olympic defence allowed Don Allan to scoop through and lob the ball over Gary Meier and against the crossbar.

The Eagles hit the lead just three minutes later. Wayne Farnsworth caught Meier off-guard and his angled 25 metre curling shot found the back of the net.

Olympic responded to this pressure with live-wire Marshall Soper making two damaging runs. Moments later Melita's Richie Williams brought down Jim Patikas in the box. The ensuing penalty was blasted wide by Soper.

The second half was a different story. Olympic created the better opportunities and two of these resulted in goals.

In the 50th minute Koussas lobbed the ball through for Jennings on the left. He pushed forward and his low angled shot across the goalmouth was hit over the bar by the diving Soper.

Moments later Olympic grabbed the equaliser. Jennings put Petalikis through and despite being flagged for off-side the referee allowed play to go on. His first shot was

ter results," Blanco said.

Sydney Olympic coach Manfred Schaefer was happy with the way his team came back despite the early setback.

"I was disappointed with the penalty attempt but as the game went on we improved and this showed in our attacking moves.

"At this stage of the year I'm pleased with the fitness of the players and we can only improve from here on," Schaefer said.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier, Rogers, Jennings, Dakos, Mavan, Phillips, Koussas (Calantzis 75), Patikas, Soper, Raskopoulos, Petalikis.

PARRAMATTA MELITA: McPherson, Williams, Barrios, Fogarty, McGinn, Griffiths, Duarte, McAusland, Allan, Farnsworth, McKie.

GOALS: Olympic (Petalikis 58, Soper 67), Melita (Farnsworth 11).

BRISBANE CLUBS MAY PLAY LEICHHARDT

LEICHHARDT could be approached to play in a mini-tournament in Brisbane late in February.

Brisbane's two NSL clubs are anxiously trying to organise the tournament in a bid to provide themselves strong pre-season matches.

The two clubs are looking to interstate opposition to avoid playing each other before the season starts.

Under the new format Lions and City could clash up to six times this season.

"Naturally our derbies are the biggest crowd pullers and our big money earners. But we don't want to kill the goose that lays the golden egg," one club official said.

"If we play twice in the pre-season, then again in the cup and then four or five more times during the season, the matches will lose their novelty."

WATSON CARRIED OFF

BY BRAD EARL

GOALKEEPER Steve Watson had a disastrous start to the new season when he was carried off after only two minutes in Croatia's first Super Challenge Cup match against St George.

Croatia overcame this setback to hold on for a 0-0 draw against the Saints, who fielded the same defence and midfield that took part in their NSL championship win last year.

However, their forward-line was considerably understrength in Sunday night's game.

Australian squad member Watson came off his line to claim a low ball with young St George attacker Peter Petkovski

coming in over-zealously. After the collision, Watson was carried off to hospital with a cut thigh.

Croatia hadn't brought a reserve keeper along, so defender Lee Sterrey deputised for Watson and did an admirable job.

St George dominated for the first 25 minutes, but after that Croatia came more into the game.

Both sides employed the offside trap, and it was a match dominated by the solid tackling of

both defences.

Into the second half, either side looked capable of building a match-winning attack, but not a penetrating goal-attempt.

Brett Woods looked very sharp in the latter stages, making some strong tackles to break down Saints' attacks.

Frank Arok, the St George supremo, tried five forwards, including Dez Marton, but all lacked effectiveness at this early stage of the

year.

ST GEORGE: Fraser, Skeen, R.O'Shea, Ratcliffe, M.O'Shea; Barton, Stone, J.O'Shea; Petkovski, Koczka (Marton 46), Svynos (Colagiuri 63).

CROATIA: Watson (replaced by Sterrey 2, Meades came on); Woods, Tomasich, Vidaic, Sterrey; Rezo (Basic 63), Savor, M.Kovacic; Clinch (Divani 76), Arnold, Kirwan.

REFEREE: P.Ramsey.



□ Young St George forward Vince Colagiuri attempts to round Croatia full-back Drago Tomasich (photos by DAVID JELLINGS)

SOCCKET TOURNAMENT

ST GEORGE STADIUM — ROCKDALE



SUNDAY, JANUARY 22nd

CROATIA VS ST GEORGE 0-0

MELITA VS OLYMPIC 1-2

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24th

7.00pm ST GEORGE VS MELITA

8.45pm SYDNEY OLYMPIC VS CROATIA

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29th

6.00pm CROATIA VS MELITA

7.45pm ST GEORGE VS SYDNEY OLYMPIC

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 1st

GRAND FINAL

7.00pm FIRST VS SECOND

8.45pm THIRD VS FOURTH



**TROPHY DONATED BY
TONY BALAZSI**



AROUND THE A.C.T.

WITH JOHNNY WARREN



□ TERRY BYRNE (left): loss

CANBERRA HAVE HEAVY TRAINING PROGRAM

NEWCASTLE KB will be the only NSL club to play Canberra Arrows in its eight match pre-season training program.

Arrows will meet KB at Sieffert Oval, Queanbeyan, home of the Canberra Raiders, on Sunday, Feb 26 in the annual Prime Minister's Cup match.

Since its inception back in 1978, Canberra Arrows has won only one PM Cup and that was in the inaugural season in 1978. The Cup will be the Arrows last match before it kicks-off its official NSL season against Wollongong Wolves at Bruce Stadium

on Saturday, March 3. Canberra's first trial match will be against Hobart Juventus coached by Ken Morton on Saturday, February 4 in Hobart. This will be followed by a match against Sutherland in Canberra on Sunday, February 5.

The following weekend Canberra joins Inter-Monaro, Croatia Deakin and West Woden Juniors to contest the Canberra Friendship Cup — a round robin tournament

played on Saturday 11, Sunday 12 and 19 of February.

On Friday evening, February 17, Canberra travel to Griffith to play Yoogali who are coached by former Western Suburbs and Inter-Monaro star Bobby Noble.

The Arrows then participate in the Roy Stark memorial to be played on Friday, February 24 in Canberra between the Arrows and a selection of

players not to continue in the matches.

All obeyed him, with the exception of Cole.

Collins stated that there was no place in his squad for a player who adopted an attitude in defiance of his requirements and added that he doubted the contribution Cole could make to the team with his likely extended absences throughout season 1984.

Collins had seen Arrows sweeper Terry Byrne put out of the game this year and his playing future placed in doubt when he was injured in the first round of the tourney. He directed all contracted

players to continue in the matches.

Collins reported the suspension to the Arrows board, and a letter confirming the cancellation of contract was forwarded to Cole's home address in New Zealand.

COLE'S CONTRACT IS CANCELLED

BY BERNIE HARRIS

NEW ZEALAND international Duncan Cole has had his contract with Canberra Arrows cancelled.

Cole joined Canberra in 1980 and has been an important member of the Arrows squad since then, although his worth has

been diminished by extensive periods of absence with the New Zealand national squad.

With New Zealand

playing in the Olympic Games in Los Angeles this year and, in view of the decision last year by the Australian Soccer Federation on NZ players, Cole's shaky future with the Arrows was dealt a deadly blow when he was suspended by coach Doug Collins after disregarding a directive from Collins on participation in a local friendly tournament.

Collins had seen Arrows sweeper Terry Byrne put out of the game this year and his playing future placed in doubt when he was injured in the first round of the tourney. He directed all contracted

BYRNE IS OUT FOR SEASON

IF THERE has been some good news for Canberra in the off-season then most definitely the sad news has been the loss of club captain and its longest serving player Terry Byrne.

Byrne was tragically injured in a post season friendly playing for England in a social world cup tournament. Damaged cruciate ligaments and

cartilage required immediate surgery and the popular skipper will be out for all of 1984 leaving one hell of a gap for Doug Collins to fill.

A series of fund raising nights have been organised for the popular Byrne whose contract had expired when the injury happened.*

ARROWS CHANGE THEIR COLOURS

THE CHANGE of official colours is one of the many alterations to Canberra Arrows in 1984.

The Arrows will be seen in gold and royal blue this year — the official colours of the city of Canberra.

The new strip will comprise of gold shirts with royal blue trim, royal blue shorts and gold socks with two royal blue bars.

The alternate strip will be reverse with royal blue shirts and gold trim.

Provided by leading

sportswear manufacturers Admiral, the new gold and blue strip has been officially sanctioned by the NSL and will be welcomed by other clubs as it clashes less with opposing colours than the previous basically white strip.

The new colours will also be welcomed by the Canberra public and is seen as a positive move in

reconciling the various Soccer factions within Canberra.

Apart from the new strip the Arrows have a new manager-coach in Doug Collins, who has made drastic changes to the Canberra line-up details of which can be found in Bernie Harris' preview in this week's issue.



□ VIC FERNANDEZ (standing left) with the players he coached in Hong Kong. At bottom left is ex-Canberra player Phil Reis.

FERNANDEZ APPOINTED

FORMER St George star, St George coach and coach of Canberra City, Vic Fernandez, has been appointed youth coach for 1984.

Fernandez has declined a lucrative offer to coach in Malaysia on family and business grounds and as such was talked out of 'retirement' by Collins.

Fernandez runs his own motor repair business in the ACT and this together

with his close family ties induced him to accept the Arrows offer.

The Arrows youth team will be in good hands under Fernandez who has a splendid record with the development of other young Australian players.

In other appointments at the Arrows, popular Roy Thomson will retain his position as assistant coach and Dennis Hall has been appointed physiotherapist with Doc McIver appointed as honorary doctor for the club.

DAVO WAITS FOR PERMIT

BY FRED VILLIERS

SOCEROO Alan Davidson is on the threshold of a great career in English Division One football.

But like so many before him, it all depends on a work permit.

Alan left Australia shortly after the end of last season determined to "do it alone" in Europe.

He went to Bayern Munich in West Germany and immediately was offered a contract after four weeks hard training with the European champions.

He turned it down because of the language problem. He said he found it difficult to communicate and took off for London where he was introduced to Brighton, the FA Cup finalists last year, by Ron Greenwood, one of the Second Division club's directors.

Again he was offered a contract but in the meantime he spent a couple of weeks with London glamour club Arsenal. Their manager, Don

Howe, couldn't make a decision, until he heard Brighton wanted the Australian and South Melbourne star defender.

He then snapped him up by matching Brighton's offer, giving Davidson a two-year contract on \$800 weekly.

Meantime, Davidson is staying in a plush King's Cross hotel at Arsenal's expense waiting for a work permit.

If it arrives, Arsenal will pay the \$30,000 South Melbourne transfer fee and play Davidson in their reserve side until he proves himself.

Alan's father, Keith, told me:

"Things look promising," he said. "Arsenal have told Alan the Players' Union have accepted him."

The Gunners wanted to know how many caps

he had with Australia and the ASF cabled them with the answer — 30. His first was in 1978 against Papua-New Guinea and his last against England when he was 22 last year.

Keith said his son had been nicknamed "Roo" by Arsenal players.

He was getting used to the heavy ball and the soft, wet grounds.

Last week another Victorian, Charlie Yankos, of Heidelberg, called in on Alan to give him all the news from Down Under.

Yankos also was in the UK trying his luck. He's at Brighton, the club Davidson first approached.

If a work permit doesn't arrive, Davidson has booked a flight back to Melbourne to fulfil his commitments with South Melbourne.

BRENNAN, HOGG CROSS PATHS

BY BERNIE HARRIS

CANBERRA Arrows striker Tony Brennan may sit out the 1984 season following his transfer-listing for \$20,000.

And former Socceroo Steve Hogg is set to rejoin the club from which he first gained representative honours.

The fortunes of Hogg and Brennan seem eternally intertwined.

When Brennan joined the ACT team in 1980 from Brisbane Lions, his \$20,000 transfer fee was reduced by the transfer of Hogg to Lions.

Now Hogg, who has just completed a science degree at Brisbane's Griffith University, wishes to take up a position as a food biologist in Canberra and to continue his Soccer career with the team through which he won a Youth international strip back in 1977 and embarked on a career which later saw him capped at senior level.

Brennan's career with the Arrows in recent times has been chequered. At the end of 1982 he was transfer-listed by then coach George Murray and spent a period on loan with the Tung Sing club in Hong Kong.

On returning to Canberra, he was re-engaged through the actions of Arrows president Charles Perkins, on a contract that drew an angry response from Murray who had negotiated lower term contracts with other players.

Brennan found it difficult to maintain a regular spot in the Arrows team during 1983 and late in the season was sus-

pended by then coach Attila Abonyi for disciplinary reasons.

New coach Doug Collins transfer listed him for \$20,000.

Brennan discussed with Lions officials last week a proposal by Collins that the clubs should initiate an exchange with Hogg.

However, the striker indicated that for personal reasons he wished to remain in the ACT this year, but would be interested in joining Lions in 1985.

Brennan indicated that if necessary he would sit out his contract with the Arrows this season under the terms of which he was

entitled to payments totalling at least \$8,000.

In the light of Brennan's attitude, the Lions board saw no future in the exchange proposals and set a fee of \$15,000 for Hogg.

Collins is none too pleased with Brennan's action.

Brennan has made it clear that it is Canberra or nothing this season, although he is one of the few transfer-listed Arrows players to have attracted interest from other clubs.

The Arrows now face the task of negotiating

Hogg's fee and finding a solution to the impasse with Brennan.



□ TONY BRENNAN: sit out



□ ALAN DAVIDSON: promising

FOUR STARS FOR SALE

BY CON NIKOLOPOULOS

HEIDELBERG United, determined not to bow to player pressure, have announced a big clear out of star players.

Gary Cole, Jim Tansey, Jeff Olver and Jim Campbell have been placed on transfer following their failure to agree to terms.

According to club secretary Paul Siomos, the committee will demand \$30,000 for the release of Cole and Campbell, while goalkeeper Olver will be cleared to a club of his liking at a fee of \$25,000.

Tansey can be considered the luckiest of the four because of a special clause in his contract stipulating that the player is free to leave Heidelberg at a fee of \$5,000.

Siomos has been reported as saying that Heidelberg are willing to exchange Campbell with Oscar Crino of South Melbourne.

Preston and Melbourne Croatia have made approaches for Cole and Campbell but the committee is not willing to make any move until they secure the services of three internationals from Sydney and Canberra.

Meantime, the four

players will be meeting their newly arrived coach Brian Garvey.

Garvey arrived in Melbourne yesterday.

Garvey has served as assistant English Youth team coach and has had charge of Wolves Youth tea-



□ JIM CAMPBELL

CENTENARY STINKER

BY CON NIKOLOPOULOS

THE Victorian Soccer Federation Centenary celebrations got off to a disappointing start on Saturday night at Olympic Park, with the Victorian State team being defeated by West Berlin 2-1.

This mediocre affair gave the 15,000 supporters very little to enthuse about. It also brought criticism against the Victorian Soccer Federation for arranging the game.

State coach Tim White said after the game that most players performed to their ability and that he was pleased with their

performance considering that there was little time to prepare the team.

Victoria dominated the first half and created a number of opportunities to score. Poor shooting by the forwards denied them the lead before the break.

Gary Cole scored for Victoria after 52 minutes when he cleverly beat the

offside trap carefully applied by the German defence.

In spite of their lead the Victorians lost their momentum and allowed the visitors to take control of the midfield with Peter Stark, the star of their side.

Berlin had to wait until the 73rd minute for the

GILROY TAKES OVER FROM HERMISTON

FORMER Brisbane Lions coach Joe Gilroy has taken over from Jim Hermiston at Brisbane City.

Gilroy was appointed as City coach only two days after Hermiston told club officials he could not accept the position, "as a matter of principle."

City managed to finish only third bottom, after being top of the table after the seventh round.

"We were sad to lose Jim, but we offered him the position subject to certain conditions. He would not accept those conditions so we had to look for someone else," City secretary John Ponturo said.

Despite being out of Soccer since he was replaced by Simon Kisselkemaker at Lions more than 12 months ago, Gilroy has not lost touch with the National League and watched most games in Brisbane last season.

"I am looking forward to getting back into it," Gilroy said after his appointment.



□ JOE GILROY with the Philips Cup he won with Lions in 1981



AROUND NEW SOUTH WALES

SHARKS AIM FOR THE NSL

BY ANDREW PASCHALIDIS

SUTHERLAND, one of the favourites to win the 1984 NSW State League and win promotion to the 1985 NSL competition, have suffered a couple of setbacks during the off-season.

The first problem that confronted the Sharks was the shock resignation of highly-regarded coach John Watkiss and long-serving secretary Laurie Haynes.

New president Peter Gray outlined the reasons why Watkiss took this step.

"John felt that he needed a break from Soccer so he took a year off coaching."

"The workload from his father's business has also been heavy lately," Gray concluded.

New coach Johnny Lavin is not unfamiliar with the surroundings at the Sutherland club. He has previously coached second and third grade sides to premiership victories.

For the past two years he has coached Port Hackling Seagulls, Sutherland's "sister club", from possible relegation to promotion into the Third Division of the NSW State League.

Another setback to Sutherland's aspirations of success this year is the



□ PETER BEGGS



□ TONY BUSH

Each week, prior to the start of the competition, ASW will look at the prospects of the teams competing for the State League First Division.

THIS WEEK: SUTHERLAND



□ PAUL DART: promising

A BATTLE ROYALE IN WOLLONGONG

BY PHIL MURPHY

IT WILL be a case of the former pupil trying to get the better of the master when Wollongong United and Fairy Meadow battle for promotion to State League this season.

The two South Coast teams are certain to be involved in the promotion race again and both will have top men at the helm.

John Bingham has been appointed United's player-coach while Mike Johnson is back in charge at Fairy Meadow.

Bingham played under Johnson when Johnson coached United to a grand final win four years ago.

Formerly player-coach with Illawarra club Shellharbour, Bingham will adopt a midfield role with his new club.

His major obstacle will be a lack of knowledge of players in the Second Division, but his senior players will be able to assist him in that department.

There have been rumours that several experienced players are keen to leave United but Bingham is confident they will be staying on.

He is also confident he will put a very strong side on the field for the first premiership game and feels they will be in the top three most of the year.

Fairy Meadow appear to have lost full-back Grant Isedale and midfielder Alex Bundalo to Wollongong City, but Johnson will also have a powerful squad.

Fairy Meadow will have basically the same side as last year but a number of the talented under 18 players will be pressing for a spot in the top side.

"I am back and keen to continue where I left off with the team," Johnson told ASW.

"The boys feel they would have won the league if we had stayed together last season so I have to make amends."

Striker Robert Briliante is one very talented player on the fringe of the first grade team. He has the perfect build for a striker and certainly knows how to get goals.



□ JOHN BINGHAM: pupil

RIVERWOOD HANGOVER

THE TRANSFER dispute between the NSW Soccer Federation and the players from the defunct Riverwood club has continued throughout the summer and appears to be coming to its climax.

Some of the players involved may be taking legal action if the transfer fees aren't lifted.

John Wignall, first grade coach of the newly-promoted First Division side, Warringah-Narrabeen, is doing his best to help many of the players who seem to have had their playing careers cut short.

BY KENNY SANSON

At 37, Wignall realises that Federation Soccer is long gone for him. He is still unable to play as an amateur because of the price on his head.

Some Riverwood players spent last season on loan or on the sidelines — some even playing under false names so as to play.

"It is ridiculous and Soccer will never go anywhere when situations like this occur. The Federation is proving its own worst enemy," Wignall said.

Another ex-Riverwood player also at Warringah-Narrabeen is Billy Bulloch. He is one of the key players for Warringah, but realises he may not be able to play because the fee could price him out of

the game.

Bulloch states that his contract with Riverwood was a verbal one and so is not bound to the Federation. He is keen to play with the Saints and hopes the dispute will soon be ended.



□ BILLY BULLOCH (photo courtesy MANLY DAILY)

NSW TABLES

• How they finished in 1983 — here are the tables for all three grades in the NSW State League divisions:

DIVISION 1 - GRADE 1

MELITA	24	17	4	3	53	11	38
CROATIA	24	15	8	1	50	11	38
BLACKTOWN	24	17	1	6	54	24	35
SUTHERLAND	24	12	5	6	34	22	30
KU-RING-GAI	24	11	7	6	40	27	29
MANLY	24	10	6	4	42	30	26
AVALA	24	9	7	8	30	35	25
INTER-MONARO	24	8	7	9	32	35	23
CANT-M'VILLE	24	7	4	3	36	46	18
YUGAL	24	5	8	11	20	37	18
POLONIA	24	3	7	14	23	51	13
AUBURN	24	3	4	17	22	64	10
BANKSTOWN	24	2	5	17	26	61	9

DIVISION 1 - GRADE 2

BLACKTOWN	24	18	6	0	67	17	42
SUTHERLAND	24	19	0	5	79	17	38
MANLY	24	16	4	4	66	28	36
MELITA	24	14	7	3	72	35	35
BANKSTOWN	24	13	5	6	48	30	31
KU-RING-GAI	24	11	7	6	50	29	29
CROATIA	23	9	5	9	49	36	23
AUBURN	24	9	3	12	34	45	21
AVALA	23	6	5	12	38	49	17
INTER-MONARO	24	5	2	17	21	66	12
CANT-M'VILLE	24	5	1	18	29	60	11
YUGAL	24	2	5	17	22	91	9
POLONIA	24	1	4	19	14	86	6

DIVISION 1 - GRADE 3

CROATIA	22	13	7	2	46	21	33
CANTERBURY	22	12	8	2	38	15	32
SUTHERLAND	22	15	1	6	53	21	31
MELITA	22	10	9	3	48	22	29
MANLY	22	11	5	6	50	28	27
BLACKTOWN	22	10	8	4	37	19	28
KU-RING-GAI	22	7	4	11	30	37	18
BANKSTOWN	22	6	5	11	35	40	17
AUBURN	22	5	6	10	26	39	16
AVALA	22	6	4	12	30	57	15
POLONIA	22	6	1	15	48	39	14
YUGAL	22	1	2	19	15	84	4

DIVISION 2 - GRADE 1

ROCKDALE	26	19	3	4	66	31	41
WARR-N'BEE	26	17	6	3	52	23	40
GLADESVILLE	26	15	6	5	48	29	36
FAIRY MEADOW	26	14	4	8	42	29	32
W'GONG UTD	26	11	8	7	42	27	30
DEE WHY	26	11	8	7	38	37	30
ARTARMON	26	12	3	11	48	41	27
REVESBY WKRS	26	9	9	8	44	38	27
PENRITH UTD	26	8	10	8	30	25	26
NTH BANKS	26	8	4	14	40	47	20
WARR-N'BEE	26	11	9	6	46	30	31
PARRA CITY	26	13	3	10	48	51	29
W'GONG UTD	26	9	5	12	45	60	23
ARTARMON	26	8	4	14	41	71	20
ROCKDALE	26	8	3	15	35	56	19
BLACKTWN UTD	26	7	4	15	35	58	18
DEE WHY	26	7	2	17	24	62	16
BELMORE	26	5	3	18	31	72	13
UNI OF NSW	26	5	3	18	20	70	11

DIVISION 2 - GRADE 2

FAIRY MEADOW	26	19	5	2	74	20	43

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BOER WAR MEMORIES FOR ORANGE WARATAHS

BY KEITH GILMOUR

A FORMER Army drill hall dating back to the times of the Boer War forms the 40 square central structure of the Orange Waratah Sports Club Ltd in the thriving central western NSW city of Orange.

Around the hall there has been constructed a brick verandah and other rooms that do great credit to the enthusiastic bunch of people who arranged the building of this outstanding clubhouse and park.

Enthusiasts, including Stuart Cousins who was well-known years ago as a senior player with Canterbury, provided the leadership to put the club on its feet.

Sports are covered in sections. Soccer has 16 teams, and other sports

are represented by eight cricket, eight netball and two baseball teams.

Archery, basketball and softball are also involved, and touch rugby is played on the grounds in summer.

Secretary-manager John Payne is the club's only paid employee. Volunteers do the rest of the work, so contributing to the success of a remarkable venture.

After a fine fund-raising venture, the Waratahs secured Commonwealth funding for their project to proceed, as

well as commercial loan support.

Paths, steps and now landscaping and tree-planting have been carried out.

There are 90 acres to the property at present, some of which is on lease. Local conditions made it desirable to have plenty of surrounding land to keep the complex clear of neighbouring properties.

This need will reduce and the club expects to end up with between 30 and 40 acres.

Currently the president is Soccer identity John

Sinclair. The other directors are Marcelus Boersma, Tyrone Buckley, Geoff Cartew, Gary Colley, Stuart Cousins, Murray Masters, John Rae, Alan Renike, Luciano Vardanega, Barry Walker and Bartholemew Westgeest.

There is a mortgage over the property and the directors act as guarantors for finance raised.

Surplus funds after a lot of hard work and an initial trading period exceed \$52,000.

Orange Waratah has had a deal of success in the Soccer code. Included amongst their victories are a NSW Amateur Cup win in 1978, and an excellent record of being major premiers in Orange first, second and third grade in 1981.

Plenty of Soccer visitors have come to the city, including Sydneysiders Harbord Diggers, Cronulla Seagulls and Canterbury Juniors.

Apart from enjoying its first year of trading, the Orange Waratahs have been right behind many fund-raising activities.



Orange Waratah Sports Club secretary-manager John Payne shows some of the club facilities to a visitor. The excellent finish to the appointments demonstrates how this relatively new licensed club has progressed.



The high central structure, economically purchased and erected, is surrounded by a face brick verandah and other rooms, with the cool room and other plant at the back.

QUEENSLAND MEETING TO RESOLVE CRISIS

BY GREG RUSSELL

QUEENSLAND Soccer tonight faces a crunch meeting at which attempts will be made to finalise the format for this season's competitions.

A special general meeting and a special council meeting have been called as the Queensland Soccer Federation management committee and the clubs alike attempt to solve the present wrangle which has left the code in limbo since last November.

Queensland Soccer was thrown into turmoil late last year, when controversial restructuring plans were introduced but twice failed to gain the necessary two-thirds acceptance to be implemented.

The constitution therefore remained unchanged, and as the Premier League had been run by resolution for the past two years, it referred to a State League. (The State League competition in Queensland was abandoned two years ago.)

Undoubtedly the restructuring plans which separate the semi-professional and amateur clubs and saw the relegation of four 1983 Premier League teams — including those from the two NSL clubs — have split Queensland Soccer wider than ever before.

Most votes taken on the issue have split the clubs almost evenly.

Bitterness and tension have come to the fore in recent meetings and even prompted the resignation of QSF president Ian Brusasco.

The resignation was short-lived though, and Brusasco returned a week later after votes of support from various sections of the code.

Anything could happen at tonight's meeting.

A group of clubs, headed by Pine Rivers, Mitchelton and Lions, have formulated a three-league eight-team competition, incorporating a new League Cup. They hope to sell the plan to the other clubs tonight.

The group has been superbly marshalled throughout the turmoil and even distributed how-to-vote cards at one meeting.

But like the original plans put up by the management committee, it is unlikely the Pine Rivers alternative will get the two-thirds majority either.

The more probable solution will be contained in a resolution, expected to be put up this week by the management committee.

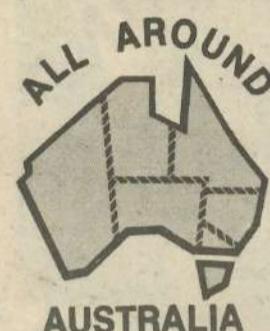
Faced with the deadlock, the management committee was forced to

meet with eight clubs just before Christmas and reportedly has made compromises.

By putting those compromises into a resolution, the management committee needs only a simple majority to finally get things going.

With most clubs now almost panicking that the season is so close and no formal plans can be made, it seems certain the resolution will be carried.

Unfortunately, however, that could only be a temporary solution to a wrangle which is far from over.



WEST FACE AZZURRI IN AMPOL OPENER

BY TOM MCKAIN

AZZURRI, the defending champions from SA's First Division, take on NSL club West Adelaide in the opening round of the Ampol Cup summer night series at Hindmarsh Stadium tomorrow night (Wednesday).

It was Azzurri who knocked out West in last year's semi-finals then went on to beat the other NSL team, Adelaide City, in the final.

So there is great appeal in tonight's two-match program, although the early match between Beograd and Birkalla will be of only a "warm-up" interest.

The competition is being run in two sections, with West, Azzurri, Croatia and Polonia in Group A and City, Para Hills, Beograd and Birkalla in Group B.

As usual, two matches will be played on Wednesday nights at Hindmarsh Stadium, with West and City seeded to make the final.

However, as is always the case at the start of the

season, and close to the end of the holiday period, anything can happen in the Ampol series.

The full draw for the competition is:

Jan 25: Beograd v Birkalla; West v Azzurri.

Feb 1: Polonia v Croatia; City v Para.

Feb 8: Para v Birkalla; Croatia v West.

Feb 15: Polonia v Azzurri; Beograd v City.

Feb 22: Beograd v Para; Polonia v West.

Feb 29: Azzurri v Croatia; Birkalla v City.

The semi-finals, then the final, will be played on the following two Wednesdays.

Azzurri, who were triple champions in 1982 then lost everything after winning the 1983 Ampol series, hope to have Croatia sweeper Peter Nyskohus.

Otherwise there has been little activity in the transfer market, with all clubs reluctant to spend cash on players in the present financial climate.

THE COACHES

David Naylor has signed as coach of Coniston — completing the list of premier league coaches for this year.

The full list is:

Warilla Wanderers — Bob Evans

Coniston — David Naylor

Fernhill — Gerry Walker

West-Figtree — Adrian Ringland

Corrimal — Dave Mollison

Bulli — Norm Flanagan

Dapto — Hugh Tinney

Russell Vale — Frank Brindley and John Morris

Tarrawanna — Eric Thompson

Bellambi — Tony Gill

Cringila — Daryl Glover

Shellharbour — Gary Masters

Shellharbour have lost John Bingham and Barney King to Wollongong United and Masters will have to rely basically on a youthful side this season.

He is fortunate to have the experience of central defender John Lloyd to man-

shall a young defence and is confident the team will perform well.

He says players have been lured to Shellharbour for money in past years but this will not be the case in 1984.

"We have little money to pay players

so it is only natural talented young players will get every chance to prove what they can do," he said.

WELL-RUN CLUB

If organisation wins premierships, Fernhill are the team to back in premier league this season.

They have appointed Bruce Isedale as president and Barry Scott secretary, while Gerry Walker has taken over as coach.

Isedale is a former player with North Wollongong, Balgownie and Fernhill and is also an ex-Fernhill first grade coach.

Scott is one of the most experienced administrators in the region and a number of other clubs were keen to lure him away from Towradgi Park.

Walker is ready to make his mark as a coach after a fine playing career and this adds up to the club having plenty of success.

They have retained most of last season's players and Walker is confident he can motivate the side to perform a lot better than they did in 1983.

He says he has one or two new players joining the squad to fill positions he feels needs bolstering.

Fernhill have also done well in developing their ground at Towradgi and the committee have worked hard to improve the playing surface in the off-season.

CLOSE LINKS

Corrimal will be working in close cooperation with NSW Second Division club Fairy Meadow this season.

This comes about after a decision by Fairy Meadow to play home games at Corrimal's home ground, Memorial Park, this season.

"If we have any players who feel they want to go back to play district Soccer, Corrimal will get first refusal," Fairy Meadow secretary Walter Chichkan said.

The switch to Memorial Park may draw more fans to Fairy Meadow's games, as the facilities are a lot better than those at Police Boys' Oval.

Memorial Park has plenty of Soccer tradition and will certainly provide a lot more atmosphere when the Sydney teams visit the Coast.

FORMER Australian World Cup goalie, Jack Reilly, is back in the game.

Jack left South Melbourne when the committee dropped Rale Rasic as coach mid-way through last year's National League season.

Jack is returning to South Melbourne "probably with Bill Murray, the Box Hill coach, at the request of club president Leo Anezakis and president of the youth section of the club, Jim Diamataris."

Jack's role will be to build a strong youth team under 19 years on a three-year policy to "have the best available youth side in Australia" according to Jim.

He told Australian Soccer Weekly: "I approached Manny Poulakakis, a former South Melbourne Hellas coach who is in Australia on holiday from Greece to take over our youngsters but he said he had coaching commitments in Greece."

"Jack Reilly is well respected at South Melbourne and we will use him as a scout to find the best available young talent there is in the country."

"We are looking for boys between 16 and 19 who we can develop for the future," he said.

JACK IS BACK



SIGNING SPREE

EAST Brunswick, promoted from the Provisional League to the Metropolitan division four this year, are looking for bigger and better things.

They are about to sign five State League players and have already engaged Frank Simonovic, 39, as coach.

Says club public relations man, Franco Mosca: "We can't reveal the names of the players at this stage as they have not been cleared. But as soon as they are we will tell the entire Soccer world about them."

Franco said it was going to be a hard year for the Italian-sponsored club.

"We have changed our entire committee as for the past 10 years there has been no progress in the club. It had been run more like a family rather

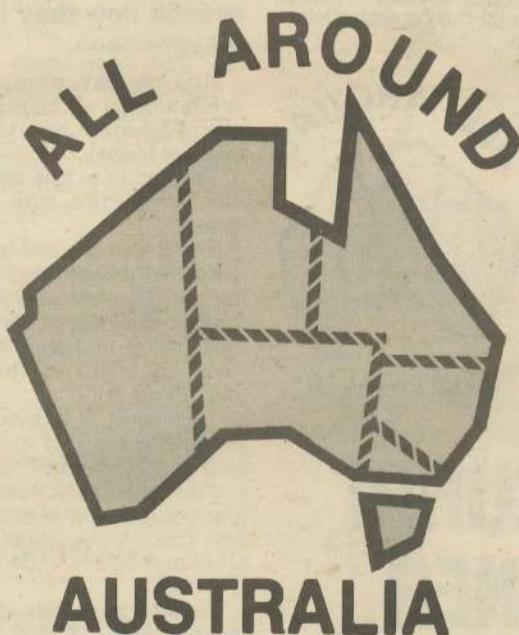
than a professional club. Now we have a new look set-up which means we should go places in 1984."

Franco said the new coach had promised discipline and possible promotion.

Among the players retained are the goalkeeper Lio Riccioli, defender Biaggio Serpentino and 25 year-old forward Rocky St. Angelo.

Dr Mario Bramante, who plays full back for East Brunswick, is also the club's secretary.

"With the big Abruzzo Club, of Lygon Street, Brunswick, behind us we should do well this year," said Franco.



NORTH NSW HAS NEW PRESIDENT

BY MYLES HAY

ALAN TREDINNICK, newly-appointed president of the Northern NSW Soccer Federation, sees promotion and astute marketing of the code as the ideal means to increase crowds in the north this season.

Mr Tredinnick, who is the father of prominent NSL players Peter (Leichhardt) and Howard (Newcastle KB), advised that already a seminar touching on aspects of the code has already been held involving first and second division clubs.

Considerable emphasis was placed on the promo-

tional aspects of bolstering the code at the day-long seminar conducted at the Wallsend Soccer Club.

A full-time secretary has been appointed for the Federation — he is Paul Whittingham, who is also president of the Coaches' Association.

The composition of the board of directors for the

Northern NSW Soccer Federation is:

President: Alan Tredinnick

Vice-president: Ernie Lamb

Treasurer: Ken McNeill

Directors: Tom Morris, Alan Lamb, Fred Eshman, David Williams

Adamstown Rosebuds,

under new coach Willie Gallagher, are already in training and have the Northern NSW first division premiership as their target.

Gallagher has brought in the experienced Peter Fairleigh as his assistant, while the versatile Neville Power has joined the club from Highfield Azzurri.

Fairleigh and Power were joint-coaches with Azzurri for the past two seasons, though this season Fairleigh will be assisting his new club from the sidelines.

Adamstown have also shown an interest in Weston's clever forward Andy Johns, but the transfer fee demanded appears to have wilted the Rosebuds' keenness to land Johns.

It is also expected that Derek Todd, trialling with Bradford City, will return to Adamstown.

CROWD BOOST TIPPED BY NSL OFFICIAL

BY FRED VILLIERS

THE NEW National Conference involving eight Victorian clubs is going to be a winner according to Tony Kovac, vice-president of the National Soccer League.

"This is the best thing to happen to Soccer in Victoria," he said.

"I expect much stronger support from the public this year and we will increase crowds by 40 per cent."

Mr Kovac, who is approaching his 35th year in the game in Australia, was president of Footscray for a record 17 years.

He says supporters will see a better standard of Soccer in 1984 especially

during the pre-season six-week Summer Cup competition at Melbourne's Olympic Park involving seven National Conference clubs as well as Croydon City of the State League.

Commenting on recent criticism by Ivan Senisin, former club secretary, about the financial state of Footscray, Mr Kovac said: "We are no worse off than South Melbourne and we are certainly much better off than Heidelberg."

"Our committee paid off \$46,000 in debts. If we had not paid these we would have a few thousand dollars in the bank."

"But we have no problems. We only have to call about 20 people to collect \$20,000 and everything will be OK."

He said one of the good things about the new league will be less travel for Victorian clubs.

"Every club will be \$40,000 to \$60,000 better off," he said.

'SCRAP PRE-SEASON CUPS': VRZINA

BY FRED VILLIERS

TWO CUPS are being played for in Victoria during the off-season, and one doesn't please a leading manager-coach.

As well as the Summer Cup, which involves seven of the National conference clubs as well as Croydon City, who finished fourth in the State League, there is the Buffalo Cup exclusively organised for 13 State League clubs.

One of the 13 teams is Northcote City, and this week their manager-coach, Tony Vrzina, said the series should be scrapped because it did nothing for the game.

"Scrap the pre-season Buffalo Cup," he said.

"The clubs should have a free hand to organise their own friendly matches which are the fund-raising games for clubs.

"The cups don't make money for the Metropolitan and State clubs. As a matter-of-fact clubs lose money by playing in them."

"I feel these cups are arranged to satisfy the so-called sponsors and I don't believe the sponsors get any value from these cup games."

"This year, 10 days before the kick-off we didn't know who or where we were playing and this means the media can't promote the games."

"It was a total shambles. There is no sporting organisation carrying on like this."

"I was hoping to organise a friendly match which would be a fund-raising promotion for my club but I found out a few days before we had to play in the Buffalo Cup."

"I think the Cup is a financial disaster to our club because of the early start. Last year we made \$10,000 in friendly matches."

"When are we going to learn a lesson. Is there anybody really concerned about the clubs?"

"Are we in business to

"The week's course was fantastic," said Frank. "I enjoyed it and learned a lot."

Frank can be contacted on (03) 537 2508.



Tony Vrzina

make the clubs stronger or are we in business to make the clubs bankrupt?" asks Vrzina.

■ ■ ■

GEELONG are looking for three players to complete their recruiting list for the season.

They want a central defender, a midfielder and a forward.

Contact Chris van Beek (052) 788266.

BUFFALO Cup round for Sunday, January 29 (with games on ground of first-named club):

Doveton v Box Hill; Northcote v Knox City; Frankston Pines v Northcote City; Fawkner v Maribyrnong; Morwell Falcons v St. Albans; Alton Rovers v Broadmeadows; Western Suburbs — bye.

■ ■ ■

FRANK CAMPBELL, former Preston and Slavia defender who came to Australia from Blackpool reserves, is looking for a coaching job.

Last season he was player-coach to Prahran City. The club this season appointed Billy Millen.

Frank has just completed a coaching course with Tim White, Victorian state director of coaching, and would like a club of his own.

THE SUCCESSFUL Geelong Advertiser Cup series will kick-off tomorrow.

The series which attracts all clubs in the Geelong area is sponsored by the local daily newspaper and is a great sales promotion gimmick for the publication.

GIVE GIRLS FAIR GO

IS THE average Australian aware that this country has a women's national Soccer team?

The answer is simple — no.

The main reason is that since 1975 Australia's women's team has played only three matches in Australia.

Besides the women's national team lacking public identity with Australians, a further injustice exists for the girls who make up the national team.

gether, plus the fact that they travel every year for the national titles (last year held in Perth), Australia's national women players at least deserve greater recognition.

At the end of last year, Australia competed for the inaugural Oceania Cup in Noumea against New Zealand, Fiji and New Caledonia.

Jimmy Selby, regional director of coaching in Bundaberg.

He is a young, clean-cut Australian professional, well-educated with very sound knowledge of Soccer.

In fact, this young Australian Soccer pro could easily handle an NSL club, given the opportunity.

I could not but admire the magnificent relationship that existed between this quietly-spoken coach and his squad.

BY

JOHN ECONOMOS

The respect, intelligence, discipline and dignity existing towards one another would put to shame many coaches and players in the NSL.

Over the next few weeks, ASW will bring you a brief profile on these wonderful young Australian girls.

You will meet Susan Monteath, Queensland's brilliant centre-back or midfielder, Kim Lembryk, Australia's youngest Soccer international, Julie Porter, South Coast's powerful blonde striker, and Julie Dolan, NSW's intelligent midfielder.

The Australian team is filled with Soccer stars of the calibre of Vicky Salmons, goalkeeper; reliable full-back Kristin Theile; Western Australia's super-lightweight

Women in Soccer



National team representation requires enormous sacrifices from the girls.

Each player is responsible for her own air fares and accommodation wherever the national team has to travel.

Every player is responsible for her own gear expenditure.

Each girl forfeits wages whilst travelling, and, because of the nature of their code, cannot be compensated financially.

Putting all this to-

I had the pleasure of travelling with the team thanks to Mr Roger Wellings' Sportwell Tours company.

I only wish the average Australian could have been in Noumea to see a bunch of young, attractive females, wearing the green and gold and doing battle for Australia.

They did a fine job, despite just being beaten for the Cup in the final against rivals New Zealand.

Australia is coached by

JIM SELBY (right), Australian women's team coach, pictured at a training session



AUSTRALIAN WOMENS SOCCER TEAM

BACK ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): Theresa Jones, Kristin Theile, Renaye Iserief, Rose Van Bruinessen, Karen Menzies, Julie Dolan, Vicky Salmons, Kerry Millman.

FRONT ROW: Cindy Heydon, Sandy Brentnall, Susan Monteath, Joanne Millman, Julie Porter, Kim Lembryk, Leigh Wardell.

midfielder, Sandy (Pee-Wee) Brentnall; and the Millman sisters, Joanne

and Kerry, Queensland's golden girls.

Next week, we start our

series on Australia's women's Soccer internationals when we meet blonde

striker Renaye Iserief, from NSW's Central Coast.



LEONIE HONOURED AT AGM

TWO women with Soccer connections going back quite a long way were honoured with life membership at the NSW Women's Federation annual general meeting.

They are Leonie Parker, past president of the Manly-Warringah Women's Soccer Association and a vice-president of the NSW women's Federation, and Trixie Tagg, former NSW player and now, as well as being a vice-president of the NSW women, a proud mother of two.

Leonie Parker's eyes sparkle whenever women's Soccer is mentioned and she is ever willing to down tools and speak about any section of the code. She has been everything from player to coach to referee to administrator.

In a career spanning 11 years, Leonie has often been asked how she became involved in women's Soccer. She says, with a wry grin, that it was pressure by an insistent daughter who could not see why girls could not

play Soccer too.

Leonie immediately set about forming a girls' team in the Manly district.

With typical Parker persuasion, Leonie got a group of girls together in quick time and then set about finding teams for them to play.

After the initial introduction into the code, the girls, with Leonie at the helm, took themselves off to the neighbouring district of Ku-ring-gai on Sydney's north shore.

There the team, with Leonie playing with them, mostly as goalkeeper, enjoyed two seasons playing against the newly-formed teams in the Ku-ring-gai Association.

Leonie was probably one of the first mother-daughter combinations to play Soccer. She played in the Killarney Heights

side with daughter Jennie for five years.

Asked if she had only played in goal, Leonie said that with only a small group, it was likely that she would play anywhere from the left wing to a back position. She said that she kept retiring but, like Melba, she kept coming back.

It was inevitable that

BY DON BALMAIN

she would continue in the Soccer game in some form or another after that. Her husband Fred is now an Australian referee's examiner and her son Geoff played for the Killarney Heights club.

Leonie has been a qualified referee for 10 years now.

Being one of the first women to go for her 'ticket', the panel were not quite sure what to do with

a quietly spoken, terribly determined and theoretically qualified young woman.

Leonie said that refereeing was a novelty for her then — as it was for some of the men players whom she controlled.

Leonie says that although she has her preliminary coaching badge, another aspect of her love for the game, she would like to advance further up the ladder of coaching. She sees difficulty in that senior level is now conducted on a 'live-in' basis and unless that could be an all-female course, there could be complications.

She has coached several sides in her own association with success and in 1981, Leonie was the assistant State coach for the Under 15 side.

After being president of the Manly-Warringah women's association for some years, Leonie decided not to contest the position this year.

Asked if this meant that she was aiming for higher things, Leonie smiled but would not commit herself.

Administratively, Mrs Parker has done a lot for the NSW women.

When the Federation was in its infancy, Leonie helped steer it over some rough patches as secretary.

As if this was not enough, the added responsibility of publicity officer and competition secretary (a position which she held with distinction) came her way at various times of her early administrative position with NSW.

Leonie was elected as a vice-president of the NSW Women's federation last year.

Not one to sit on her laurels, Leonie immediately got going on the coaching of the first Under 15 NSW side, putting in considerable Parker effort.



LADIES' Soccer is an integral part of the operations of many Associations in Sydney. Here the captain of Saints United displays the perpetual trophy for winning the ladies' first division competition in 1983. In the background is the local Canterbury Association secretary, Jim Wakeling.



**KEITH
GILMOUR
JS
JUNIOR
SCENE**

STAN DYE'S DRIVE LIFTS QUEENSLAND

QUEENSLAND junior president Stan Dye was tour leader for the Australian youth team in the December Oceania tournament in New Zealand.

Here we set out his career as a player and then as an enthusiastic junior organiser.

Queensland juniors have grown remarkably over recent years to encompass every corner of this huge State.

Dye migrated to Australia from Britain in 1950 and became active in senior Soccer as a player and an administrator at club level until 1962.

In 1963 he became involved in junior Soccer by forming a junior club in Redcliffe (north of Brisbane) and served as president and later as secretary of that club until 1969.

In 1970 he was elected to the management committee of the Brisbane Junior Soccer Association,

serving there until 1976.

During this period he held the positions of representative team organiser (5 years) and secretary (2 years).

In addition he acted as team manager and tour leader for various representative tours by Brisbane rep teams, including an Under 15 tour to Auckland and the North Island of New Zealand in 1975.

He was appointed by the Queensland Soccer Federation to the steering committee to reorganise junior Soccer in Queensland in 1975-76, resulting in the formation of the Queensland Junior Soccer Council.

Since 1976 he has served as secretary (1978-79) and president (1980-

83), and has been Queensland's representative on the National Junior Soccer Council since 1980.

He has also served the Queensland JSC in various additional capacities — rep team manager at national championships in 1976, '79 & '80, championship manager at national championships in 1978, organising committee member or chairman at national championships in 1979, '81 and '83.

He was also responsible for the Queensland Junior Soccer input to the World Youth Championship in 1981.

Stan holds life membership of the Redcliffe City Soccer Club and Brisbane Northern Districts Junior Soccer Association.

SUTHERLAND REFS HONOUR MEMBER

THE SUTHERLAND Shire Soccer Referees Association recently held their annual general meeting and presentation night.

The highlight of the night was a presentation to Gino Benevento, who has completed 25 years as a referee in the shire.

The presentation address was made by Reg Nelmes, who paid tribute to Gino's enthusiasm and individual style. He also spoke of some of the lighter moments of refereeing.

Gino was presented with silver goblets and tray by Chris Smyth, the Association president.

The Cadet of the Year award was won by Graham Williams, the runner-up was Michael Goodwin and the Merit Award was won by David Scott.

There are 160 active referees in the Sutherland Referees Association and during the 1983 season they officiated at 6,500 games, including the U18 State Cup final, U14 Youth League final, U15 national championship

and the U15 State titles.

In addition, one member, Gary Power, is a referee in the NSL and three are linesmen in the State League — R. Doenau, C. Smyth, T. Williams.

New referees courses are held in March each year and intending referees can gain further information from the secretary Colin Coy on 524 3636.



The 1983 Blacktown Assn U16 Youth League team.

YOUTH SUCCESS IN NEW ZEALAND

TEAM officials could not speak too highly of the calibre of players who represented Australia in the Oceania Under 15 tournament in New Zealand during December.

The Australian side from as far afield as Perth, Lismore and Brisbane.

The matches were arranged so that Oceania would have a team ready if it was invited to play in the first-ever world championship for Under 16 players this year.

However, FIFA has put the commencement of the competition back until 1985.

That means that this group of players cannot qualify, but they have gained a valuable start in their Soccer careers.

It took a huge effort to establish a squad and bring players together

from as far afield as Melita Eagles and Auburn State League clubs.

This wealth of experience, combined with his handling of NSW junior representative teams, was of great value.

Also on the tour were team manager Rod Woods, tour leader Stan Dye and trainer Bernard O'Flaherty.

Of the 16 players, six were Victorians, five from Northern NSW, two from NSW, and one each from Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia.

The players were: Corrado Nobile (V) George Jolevski (V)

Mathew Nicholson (NSW)

Michael Graham (NSW)

Gavin Parry (NSW)

Gareth Navin (WA)

Robert Runje (V)

Craig Foster (NSW)

David Barrett (NSW)

Mark Talajich (V)

Brett Thomson (SA)

Stan Thodis (V)

Paul Trimboli (V)

Alfio Catalario (Q)

David Aranyi (NSW)

George Bouhoutsos (NSW)

Train-on players:

Anthony George (NSW)

Chris Turner (NSW)

Mark Abraham (SA)

Peter Politis (NT)

AUSTRALIA'S U15 INTERNATIONALS

CRAIG FOSTER

CLUB: Goonellabah.

ASSOCIATION or ZONE: Lismore.

POSITIONS PLAYED: Midfield, full-back, centre-forward.

NUMBER OF YEARS PLAYED: 10.

OTHER SPORTS: Cricket, basketball, swimming, tennis.

FAVOURITE OVERSEAS PLAYER: Gordon Cowans.

REPRESENTATIVE RECORD: Richmond-Tweed 5 years, NSW 1982-83.

AMBITION: Play for Australia at senior level and play in World Cup.



GEORGE JOLEVSKI

CLUB: Preston Makedonia.

POSITIONS PLAYED: Centre midfield, sweeper, full-back.

NUMBER OF YEARS PLAYED: 6.

OTHER SPORTS: Athletics, tennis, hockey, baseball.

FAVOURITE AUSTRALIAN PLAYERS: Charlie Yankos, Dez Marton.

FAVOURITE OVERSEAS PLAYERS: Kenny Dalglish, Alan Kennedy.

REPRESENTATIVE RECORD: Victoria U13 1982, U14 1983. Played for Lalor for two years. Played with Preston 1979-1983.

AMBITION: To represent Australia in the seniors. To become a physical education teacher.



MARK TALAJICH

CLUB: Melbourne Croatia.

ASSOCIATION or ZONE: Northern Melbourne.

POSITIONS PLAYED: Left midfield.

NUMBER OF YEARS PLAYED: 6.

OTHER SPORTS: Basketball.

FAVOURITE AUSTRALIAN PLAYER: Tommy Cumming.

FAVOURITE OVERSEAS PLAYER: Zico.

REPRESENTATIVE RECORD: U10 Vic Federation Cup, U12 Northern Regions Cup.

AMBITION: To play in the World Cup and play for Australia.



BRETT THOMSON

CLUB: Adelaide City.

ASSOCIATION or ZONE: SA Federation.

POSITIONS PLAYED: Midfield.

NUMBER OF YEARS PLAYED: 7.

OTHER SPORTS: Tennis, basketball.

FAVOURITE AUSTRALIAN PLAYERS: John Kosmina.

FAVOURITE OVERSEAS PLAYERS: Kevin Keegan.

REPRESENTATIVE RECORD: Twice U12 State vice-captain, U14 State captain.

AMBITION: To play NSL for Adelaide City, play for country as many times as possible and play as professional in England.



WOODS WELCOMES INSURANCE SCHEME, PARKLEA PLAN

PLAYERS in NSW Amateur Soccer Federation ranks will have cover against injuries suffered in matches played under the jurisdiction of the Federation this year.

Premiums have been fixed at \$1 per head for players from U7 to U17 and \$9 for those from U18 to all-age.

Retiring NSW Amateur secretary Rod Woods said that a deal of the burden was being carried by the seniors, because they will receive the benefit of the loss of wages section of the policy.

Mr Woods stood down after five years in the position and will now concentrate on his appointment as secretary of the Na-

tional Junior Council, as well as being with the strong Ku-ring-gai Soccer Association.

He was particularly pleased that the Amateurs will be co-operating with the NSW Soccer Federation over the Parklea Soccer Academy. The \$26,000 per annum contribution will give the Amateurs 50 percent of the say in the conduct of the area.

Benefits will be the use of Parklea for coaching and tournaments.

In retiring, Mr Woods put out a strong plea for increasing the standard of coaching in NSW, and noted that the other States are closing the gap between themselves and NSW, which has a big proportion of Australia's junior playing strength.

One task that he would have liked to have fulfilled during his term in office was to improve the numbers of referees available to cover matches.

Running such a huge organisation is no small



□ ROD WOODS

task and Mr Woods deserves hearty congratulations for his valiant efforts.

Mr Woods' successor as chief administrator is Frank Wilson, until now the long-serving secretary of Gladesville-Hornsby FA as well as being a keen supporter of the NSW Amateurs and its huge Sydney Branch.

NEWCASTLE U18s SHINE

NATIONAL coach Les Scheinflug has given a big wrap to the Northern NSW representative Under 18 team.

Scheinflug said: "Jim Foley is doing a marvellous job with these players.

Foley is the Northern NSW director of coaching.

"They are very talented for a start, and that natural ability shows through," Scheinflug continued.

"I worked with them twice and you could see them pick up more with every session."

Scheinflug spent part of each of two weeks with the coaching camp conducted at the University of New England in Armidale by Willie Wallace.

The Northern NSW squad was also in attendance.



JUGGLING! Try it throughout the summer, and see how many extra tricks you can add to it. Individual skills picked up when the pressure of competitions is off will greatly help you.

COACHING UPDATE

BY ERIC ARNEIL

I FEEL it appropriate at this stage to point out this report sees the conclusion of our 1981 coaching proposal.

Looking back over the past two years one can only assume the scheme has been successful if the following guidelines are used.

Funds provided by the NSWASF for coaching gave us a national coaching scheme. There was a record number of candidates attending Level 1, 2, 3 Courses 1983.

During the two years we have completed the following program:

Level 1 Certificates 1600
Level 2 Certificates 460
Level 3 Certificates 12

Upgraded New South Wales Coaches staff by training level 3 staff coaches to State instructors. 21

Conducted selected boys camp — number of candidates 13/15s. 420

Conducted Coaching Clinic Weekends School Holidays, in country areas: Tahmoor, Goulburn, Temora, Young, Tumut, Parkes, Bathurst, Orange, Dubbo, Nowra, Bomaderry, Moruya, Wagga, Eden, Bega, Merimbula, Hours coaching provided 520, Kilometres travelled 18,000, Total expenditure \$40,000.

Coaching provided from the Coaching Fund has made it possible to de-



□ ERIC ARNEIL, NSW Director of Coaching 1983

velop a system where people at all levels can expand their knowledge.

More and more clubs and associations are using the scheme, a situation I sincerely hope will upgrade our junior players' standards.

The aim is to continue to expand and upgrade coaching standards in the District Coaching Asso-

cations.

Coaching in New South Wales would be unavailable to many thousands of juniors without them.

They must be given all the support possible by the Parent Associations, remembering most coaches start their careers from the courses conducted by them.

STATE WINNERS

THE VARIOUS Amateur Cup winners bring in hundreds of entries.

Competing are club teams from the various NSW affiliated associations.

Here are the 1983 winners, and that begs the question: "Which clubs will come out on top in 1984?"

NSW AMATEUR CUP

Winner: Loftus Rovers. Runner-up: Canterbury.

ROBERTSON CUP

Winner: Greenacre. Runner-up: Pendle Hill.

U18 STATE CUP

Winner: Nth Epping Rangers. Runner-up: Hornsby Hts.

U16 STATE CUP

Winner: Chullora. Runner-up: Kissing Point.

U14 STATE CUP

Winner: Castle Hill Sports. Runner-up: Epping YMCA.

This season will see the State body requesting further funding for coaching. I hope what you have read will encourage you to give further support over the coming year.

Recent discussions with the Dept of Sport & Recreation, NSW Federation and NSW Amateurs indicates the appointment of full time Director Coaching 1984.

The new season will see

SYDNEY CONTACTS

SO YOU have a club or team that is looking to join up to play Soccer.

Maybe your players are from a suburb, school, church or some community organisation.

Listed below are the secretaries of the different associations who will be pleased to have you placed.

The list covers the Sydney Metropolitan area and the South Coast.

The Campbelltown area belongs to the Southern Branch. The contact for Campbelltown and surrounding districts is the Macarthur Soccer Association secretary Mr Ross Andrews, 61 Kader St, Bargo, Phone (046)

general upgrading of standards and further full support in conducting courses on your behalf by the NSW Soccer coaches.

New South Wales Soccer Federation headquarters will open in 1984 for use by Soccer Coaches Federation to conduct all certified courses. Boys camps, selected boys coaching, fitness for Soccer, trainers' courses, accreditation courses.

town, 2148. Phone (02) 621 1580.

Canterbury: Mr J. WAKELING, PO Box 297, Leichhardt, 2040. Phone (02) 624 8427.

Gladesville: Mr S. GRANT, c/- R. Iredale, 18 Vexney Dr, West Pennant Hills. Phone (02) 84 6745.

Granville: Mr D. MACDOUGALL, 9 Hillary St, Winston Hills, 2153. Phone (02) 624 5950.

Illawarra: Mrs J. BURNS, 44 Girraween Ave, Warilla, 2528. Phone (042) 96 5771.

Ku-ring-gai: Mr R. WOODS, PO Box 147, Pymble, 2073. Phone (02) 44 7069.

Manly: Mr L. LEMS, 18

Cook St, Forestville, 2087. Phone (02) 451 8825.

Nepean: Mrs B. HORLEY, 53 Second Ave, Kingswood, 2750. Phone (047) 36 4196.

St George: Mr J. HEDISON, PO Box 347, Hurstville, 2220. Phone (02) 570 3772.

South & East: Mr S. VENTURA, 55 Byng St, Maroubra, 2035. Phone (02) 344 0777.

Southern Dist: Mr J. WILSON, 6 Swanley St, Mt Pritchard, 2170. Phone (02) 607 4522.

Sutherland: Mr L. RUSHBROOK, PO Box 231, Miranda, 2228. Phone (02) 525 2416.

MINI AMPOL CUP

THE MINI Ampol Cup, for representative Under 13 teams, will start at Parklea on Sunday February 5.

Double-header games will be played on February 5 and 12.

Except for one semi-final, all games will be played at Parklea, enabling State team selections to be handled on the spot.



THE NSW Youth League, the stepping stone for bright juniors to the senior clubs, is one of the greatest advances seen in Soccer football in the Premier State.

This snap was taken at the finals, played at Marconi Stadium last season. Identified, from right, are: Ian MacKinnon, the former APIA winger; Fil Bottalico, ex-APIA midfielder and current Leichhardt coach; and, in the dark jersey, ex-international full-back Stan Ackerley.



JUNIOR FEATURE:

NSW AMATEUR SOCCER FEDERATION



AMATEURS FACE A NEW ERA

THE NSW Amateur Soccer Federation should gear itself up for professional administration, according to its president Ian Holmes.

He said: "For the game to progress at junior level we must, in my view, bring about the end of the 'kitchen table' methods which are outdated relics of the '50s and '60s."

"The NSW Government has for some time recognised the need for sport at State level to be administered on a businesslike basis.

"The Government has made funds available to sport to assist in the employment of professional people.

"I believe the time is upon us when we must obtain some of those funds."

"We are the largest sporting federation in NSW not run professionally, and therefore other sports are obtaining the funds which we should be utilising."

With a range of issues now out of the way, it is a timely call.

The NSW Federation and the Amateur Federation should examine what can be done to set such a proposal on the way to the NSW Dept of Sport, Recreation and Tourism.



NSWSF LIST OF CONTACTS

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY

1983 STATUS REPORT

STATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President: Mr I. HOLMES

41 Margaret St, Kingsgrove, 2208. Phone (02) 50 9703

Senior vice-president: Mr D. HUNTER

15 Gundary St, Moruya, 2537. Phone (044) 74 1983

Junior vice-presidents:

SYDNEY — Mr H. DENING

13/1 Warburton St, Gymea, 2227. Phone (02) 524 9913

RIVERINA — Mr B. MAUNDRELL

10 Blumer St, Griffith, 2680. Phone (069) 62 1214

WESTERN — Mr A. CANTRILL

Forbes Rd, Orange, 2800. Phone (063) 65 2277

SOUTHERN — Mr J. DAVIES

62 Beaconsfield St, Revesby, 2212. Phone (02) 774 3304

Secretary: Mr F. WILSON

13 Kells Rd, Ryde, 2112. Phone (02) 80 5215

Treasurer: Mr G. CHURCHWARD

PO Box 37, Kingswood, 2750. Phone (047) 36 4107

Assistant secretaries:

Administration — Mr M. BRAY

'Vychan', Eugowra, 2806. Phone (068) 53 5123

Competition — Mr B. CULLINAN

1 Boree St, Eastwood, 2122. Phone (02) 888 5159

Publicity: Mr J. HEDISON

PO Box 347, Hurstville, 2220. Phone (02) 570 3772

Registrar/recorder: Mr F. BROUGHTON

1481 Canterbury Rd, Punchbowl, 2196.

Phone (02) 709 7347

Tours & promotions: Mr T. COATES

164 Harrow Rd, Glenfield, 2167. (02) 605 5107

(subject to minor alteration only)

NEXT week, ASW's special junior feature will be looking at SOCCER IN ALBURY.

SUTHERLAND TOPS IN AMATEUR STRENGTH

REGISTERED players in the NSW Amateur organisation remained steady at over 90,000 in 1983.

NSW in Soccer terms only covers southern NSW. It excludes areas as close as just over the Hawkesbury River, the ACT Federation, and another 10,000 players who turn out in unaffiliated associations.

The latter include the NSW Churches SFA, the Sydney Amateur League competitions and the Public Services SFA.

The Illawarra district is separate and has a loose connection with the NSW Soccer Federation.

At a time of decreasing birth-rate and strong pockets of economic hardship, the work put in by many thousands of amateur officials is clearly reflected in the huge range of Soccer activities available.

It is up to the senior clubs to reap the benefit of the outstanding young players being produced in amateur ranks.

In some cases there is still insufficient liaison between senior clubs and their local Associations. If an Association does not have a proper senior link or links, then the thinking cap should go on.

The Sydney Branch had a number of Associations which did particularly well in increasing their playing strength from 1982 figures.

They were (with 1982 shown in brackets): Granville 7,730 (6,792), Nepean 7,412 (4,693), St

George 5,010 (4,531), Southern & Eastern 2,854 (2,263), and Sutherland 8,685 (7,815).

Sutherland, with 699 teams and 52 football grounds, can boast of being Sydney's biggest junior district numerically.

Closely following are Granville, Nepean and Ku-ring-gai.

No less than 880 grounds were used in Sydney and Southern NSW for affiliated competitions alone. Ku-ring-gai had 88 of them.

The new Macarthur Association, from Campbelltown and surrounding areas, boosted playing strength in the Southern Branch from 2,107 to 6,860 players.

Although it lost some important clubs to Macarthur, the Highlands Association from the Moss Vale area only dropped its playing numbers from 894 to 802 players.

Shoalhaven (Nowra and district) fielded a credible 1,635 players in 135 teams, leaving them second in the Southern Branch to Macarthur.

Wagga Association's growth from 672 to 1,190 players gave Riverina Branch a boost.

Western NSW, hard hit by drought, felt the effect of being consolidated from 11 mainly under-strength associations into four of definite potential.

A slight drop in playing

numbers resulted, but standards and later player interest will be fanned.

The main associations in the west and their centres are now Mitchell (Bathurst), Calare (Orange), Orana (Dubbo) and Central West (Parkes and Forbes).

These drives should cover youth, say from Under 14 grade upwards in particular.

overall the Associations need well-conceived recruiting campaigns this year.

These drives should cover youth, say from Under 14 grade upwards in particular.

And then there is the need for clubs to extend to new suburbs and older ones which are redeveloping, as well as to secure school clubs as well.

THE BACKERS

IT takes more than just enthusiasm and well-directed drive to conduct a huge playing body such as the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation.

Along the way are gathered various organisations and people whose assistance is vital to the well-being of Soccer.

The Amateurs express particular thanks to the following for their valued support in 1983:

ADMIRAL — for supplying and fully outfitting State Squads in such magic style.

EDGELLS — for the supply of 'Gatorade' to our National Championships.

TAA — for transporting State teams and NSWASF officials with care, consideration and safety as they went about their assigned tasks.

AMPOL PETROLEUM — for again sponsoring the Under 13 Mini Ampol Cup.

NORTHERN DISTRICT SPORTING SUPPLIES

— thanks to Pamm & Bill Cullinan for their efforts in organising the sporting gear used by the NSWASF.

ATTACK SPORTSWEAR — for their continued support of the Sydney Branch Youth League.

THE ROBERTSON FAMILY — for their donation towards the cost of running the Under 21 Robertson Cup.

MR PETER McCANN and MR NORM MARTIN BEM — the patrons, for their most acceptable donations.

THE DIRECTORS OF ST GEORGE BSC — thanks for making their facilities available.

ASSOCIATION	K	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	21	A/A	CLUBS	TEAMS	PLAYERS	GROUNDS	LARGEST CLUB
Bankstown	-	-	36	38	33	33	28	28	20	12	9	-	9	-	9	59	37	312	3744	30	
Blacktown	41	28	33	42	33	36	34	23	17	19	6	2	5	-	2	57	29	378	4984	47	Rooty Hill RSL 24
Canterbury	-	*15	23	30	33	34	29	21	14	12	12	7	9	13	-	80	30	332	5200	36	Earlwood 35
Gladesville	†18	†38	40	48	45	53	45	34	26	20	14	11	8	-	8	102	41	510	6485	48	St Andrews 36
Granville	*23	*21	71	69	69	72	63	48	37	30	22	14	9	-	18	49	27	615	7730	70	Winston Hills 52
Illawarra	-	-	39	43	47	37	36	29	25	15	10	10	-	-	-	25	291	3400	63	Dapto 31	
Ku-ring-gai	-	†115	†106	+75	+63	49	41	28	25	20	11	-	24	-	-	97	42	654	7115	88	Lindfield 62
Manly	†36	†67	†83	52	50	47	44	34	25	15	12	-	13	-	-	116	27	594	6980	56	Wakehurst
Nepean	†41	†49	49	51	49	39	47	27	22	18	9	6	-	-	-	90	32	497	7412	63	Springwood 34
St George	†29	†34	36	37	37	41	36	24	18	15	8	7	5	4	9	47	30	387	5010	41	Peakhurst Un 31
South & East	*19	*28	22	24	24	23	16	9	12	-	9	-	-	-	-	39	48	225	2854	30	
Southern Dist	21	30	38	34	35	38	30	24	20	16	10	7	-	-	-	45	50	422	4286	42	Moorebank 39
Sutherland	†58	†75	*80	60	53	54	49	33	29	28	24	-	26	-	35	95	24	699	8685	52	
TOTAL	286	500	656	603	571	556	498	362	290	220	156	64	108	17	81	876	442	5916	73885	696	
RIVERINA																					
Griffith	-	†8	6	7	7	7	8	4	5	2	2										

□ FRANS THIJSSEN:
selected



AMERICA'S BEST 11 FOR 1983

Once again Cosmos led the selection with four of their players being selected. Although they didn't win the play-offs last year they proved that they still had the best players in the USA.

The team is:

Jan van Beveren (Fort Lauderdale), Eskandarian/Beckenbauer (Cosmos), Dave Watson (Vancouver) and Barry Wilson (Tulsa); Thijsen (Vancouver), Terlecki (Golden Bay) and Bogicevic (Cosmos); Pato Margetic (Chicago), Cabanas (Cosmos) and Zungui (Golden Bay).



□ ZICO scores his memorable bicycle kick for Brazil against New Zealand in the 1982 World Cup.

1983 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

EIGHTY percent of the voting was dominated by two South Americans and a French player all currently playing in Italy.

Zico, who plays for Udinese, won 28 percent of the votes; Platini, starring for Juventus, received 24 percent and Falcao, playing for Rome, collected 18 percent of the votes.

German club Hamburg were voted the

best team in the World and the Danish Sepp Piontek the best coach.

In the Brazilian awards Socrates (Corinthians) ran out a clear winner with 225 votes and Zico (Flamengo/Udinese) won 115 votes.

PLATINI RANKED AT NUMBER ONE

PLAYING for Juventus in the Italian competition Michel Platini ran out a clear winner as best player with 110 votes.

The next spots were closely fought out. Liverpool striker Kenny Dalglish received 26 votes, Alan Simonsen

from Denmark Vejle 24, Gordon Strachan of Aberdeen 24 and Magath of Hamburg 20.



□ MICHEL PLATINI: best

OVERSEAS RESULTS

WEST GERMANY

Kaiserslautern v Hamburg	0-2	Apollon Kalamarias v Ethnikos	1-0
Borussia Dortmund v Eintracht Frankfurt	2-0	Panserraikos v Aris	0-1
Bayer Erdingen v Nuremberg	1-0	Panathinaikos	13 4 0 28 7 30
Bayer Leverkusen v Bayern Munich	1-5	Iraklis	11 4 2 30 9 26
Kickers Offenbach v Bochum	2-2		
Werder Bremen v Waldhof Mannheim	5-0	Malaga v Real Betis	1-1
Eintracht Brunswick v Stuttgart	1-0	Valencia v Real Madrid	0-0
Arminia Bielefeld v Cologne	1-2	Real Sociedad v Real Valladolid	2-1
Fortuna Duesseldorf v Borussia M'gladbach	4-1	Cadiz v Sporting	0-2
		Real Zaragoza v Real Murcia	2-1
TABLE (after 18 games):		Salamanca v Athletic Bilbao	1-2
Bayern Munich	11 4 3 35 16 26	Barcelona v Real Mallorca	1-1
Stuttgart	10 5 3 36 16 25	Atletico Madrid v Osasuna	3-0
Werder Bremen	10 4 4 39 17 24	Sevilla v Espanol	2-1
Hamburg	10 4 4 32 19 24		
Fortuna D'orf	9 5 4 43 23 23	Athletic Bilbao	12 6 2 31 19 30
Borussia M'gladbach	9 5 4 37 25 23	Real Madrid	13 2 5 37 23 28

ITALY

Avellino v Ascoli	2-1	Atletico Madrid	11 3 6 33 30 25
Catania v Udinese	0-2	Barcelona	9 6 5 33 20 24
Florentina v Torino	4-1	Real Zaragoza	9 5 6 31 24 23
Genoa v Napoli	0-0	Real Betis	9 4 7 29 24 22
Inter v Lazio	1-1	Malaga	8 6 6 31 21 22
Juventus v Pisa	3-1		
Roma v Sampdoria	1-1	Athletic Bilbao	12 6 2 31 19 30
Verona v Milan	1-1	Real Madrid	13 2 5 37 23 28

TABLE (After 17 games):

Juventus	10 5 2 37 17 25
Torino	7 8 2 19 12 22
Florentina	7 7 3 30 18 21
Roma	8 5 4 25 15 21
Udinese	6 8 3 31 19 20
Verona	7 6 4 25 18 20

HOLLAND

PEC Zwolle v Groningen	0-2	Paris St Germain	12 7 5 39 24 31
Willem II Tilburg v Ajax	0-2		
Helmond Sport v Feyenoord	0-5		
Volendam v Haarlem	1-0		
Utrecht v GA Eagles Deventer	2-0		

GREECE

Panthinaikos v Oly	2-0	Boavista v Salgueiros	2-1
AEK v PAOK	4-0	Benfica	14 1 0 40 7 29
Olympiakos v Larisa	3-0	Porto	12 2 1 24 2 26
Iraklis v Egaleo	4-0	Sporting	9 2 4 29 13 20
Apollon Athens v Doxa	1-1	Braga	6 6 3 15 12 18
Panionios v Yannina	4-0	Guimaraes	8 1 6 20 22 17

TABLE (After 15 games):

GOMEZ

WINS AWARD

FERNANDO Gomez, who plays for Porto in Portugal, was a clear winner of the European Golden Boot award for goals scored with 36 to his credit.

Peter Houtman, who plays for Feyenoord, scored 30 goals and won the silver boot. Greek sensation Nikos Anastopoulos finished closely behind with 29 goals and won the bronze.

Aberdeen boss Alex Ferguson was voted European coach of the year.

**BARGAIN
BUY FOR
CHELSEA**



WATFORD WANT TO BUY BLISSETT

LUTHER BLISSETT, like other UK players who have moved to Italy, is having a hard struggle making the grade with A.C.Milan.

The former Watford and England centre-forward, scored three goals in 15 games... hardly an impressive strike rate. Milan have now warned

him: "Get goals or you're out."

Watford are keeping an eye on this interesting situation — in fact they

are anxious to buy him back.

Watford are ready to pay \$500,000. They sold

Blissett to Milan for \$1,700,000. If this deal goes through, Watford will be laughing.

CHELSEA could have made the bargain buy of the season by signing Mickey Thomas from Stoke City to aid their promotion drive.

Thomas cost only \$110,000 and immediately banged home two goals against another promotion-chasing team, Sheffield Wednesday, in his debut game.

The player says he knows he'll be happy at Chelsea where the manager is John Neale, who was Wrexham manager when Thomas started his career with that club.

BATSON'S BOSS BID

BRENDAN BATSON has had to retire from football with an injury but he hopes to remain in the game.

Batson, former Arsenal and West Brom full-back, has applied for the manager's job at Cambridge United. If he is appointed, he'll be the first black man to take over a Football League club as manager.

WITH Alvin Martin still recovering from a car crash, West Ham may have to go into the transfer market to replace their English international centre-half.

One obvious target for the Hammers is Tottenham's transfer-seeking Paul Price.



RAY CLEMENCE

UK SOCCER TABLES

ENGLISH LEAGUE DIVISION ONE						DIVISION FOUR					
W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Plymouth	23	7	6	10	31
Liverpool	24	14	6	4	40	Wilson	23	7	5	10	25
Man Utd	24	13	7	4	44	Freston	24	7	5	12	25
West Ham	24	13	4	7	38	Southend	23	6	7	10	22
Notts Forest	23	13	3	7	44	Brentford	24	5	8	11	23
QPR	23	13	3	8	40	Bournemouth	25	6	5	14	23
Spurs	23	13	3	8	40	Rotherham	22	6	4	12	22
Luton	24	12	5	10	41	Exeter	24	5	7	13	23
Coventry	24	10	8	6	33	Scunthorpe	24	4	8	28	20
Aston Villa	24	10	6	8	37	Port Vale	23	4	8	12	15
Norwich	25	9	8	8	30						
Arsenal	24	10	4	10	41						
Tottenham	24	9	6	9	38						
Wimbledon	24	9	7	1	20						
Everton	24	8	7	9	16						
Sunderland	23	8	5	9	25						
WBA	24	9	3	12	28						
Ipswich	24	8	5	11	33						
Leicester	25	7	8	10	38						
Birmingham	24	7	4	13	22						
Notts County	24	5	5	14	32						
Stoke	24	5	6	15	21						
Wolves	24	4	5	15	21						
DIVISION TWO						DIVISION ONE					
Chelsea	27	14	9	4	56	Plymouth	23	7	6	10	31
Sheff Wed	25	15	6	4	49	Wilson	23	7	5	10	25
Man City	25	14	5	6	43	Freston	24	7	5	12	25
Newcastle	24	14	3	7	47	Southend	23	6	7	10	22
Grimsby	23	12	9	4	37	Brentford	24	5	8	11	23
Blackburn	25	12	7	6	34	Bournemouth	25	6	5	14	23
Charlton	25	12	7	6	34	Rotherham	22	6	4	12	22
Carlisle	25	11	9	5	29	Exeter	24	5	7	13	23
Huddersfield	25	10	9	6	36	Scunthorpe	24	4	8	28	20
Brighton	25	9	6	10	41	Port Vale	23	4	8	12	15
Portsmouth	25	9	5	11	41						
Middlesbrough	25	8	8	9	28						
Shrewsbury	24	8	8	9	28						
Barnsley	24	8	5	11	34						
Oldham	25	8	4	13	29						
Leeds	23	7	6	10	30						
Cardiff	23	8	2	13	28						
C Palace	24	7	5	12	26						
Fulham	25	5	8	12	27						
Derby Co	25	5	9	14	22						
Swansea	25	3	5	17	22						
Cambridge	25	2	7	16	20						
DIVISION THREE						DIVISION ONE					
Walsall	25	14	5	5	40	Partick	23	14	3	6	41
Oxford	24	14	5	5	51	Dumbarton	23	12	6	5	38
Bristol Rovers	25	14	4	7	42	Morton	23	10	9	4	46
Hi	23	12	9	2	38	Kilmarnock	24	13	2	9	42
Wimbledon	25	12	9	6	48	Rangers	23	9	6	7	36
Sheffield United	25	12	9	6	48	Darlington	24	8	3	13	20
Burnley	24	11	7	6	48	Hertford	25	6	9	10	21
Bolton	25	11	7	7	35	Stockport	27	11	6	10	39
Orient	25	11	4	10	35	Peterborough	27	10	7	8	40
Gillingham	22	11	3	8	41	Bury	24	10	7	7	37
Bradford	24	10	5	9	47	Crewe	24	10	5	9	35
Lincoln	25	10	5	10	55	Walsall	24	10	5	9	35
Millwall	25	9	7	3	42	Portsmouth	24	10	5	10	35
Newport	23	9	7	7	29	Southend	24	10	5	10	35

ARSENAL CHASE PLAYERS

ARSENAL'S new manager Don Howe wants to strengthen his side and is ready to pay big money for two new players.

The players under Howe's scrutiny are Paul Mariner of Ipswich Town and Viv Anderson of Nottingham Forest.

Meanwhile "wonder boy" Charlie Nicholas continues to frustrate Arsenal fans who expected so much from him after his transfer from Celtic in Scotland.

Howe is fielding Nicholas in a withdrawn role, playing behind the main strikers, because the Arsenal boss says this gives the boy more room to roam the width of the pitch.

BOTHAM IN HOT WATER

ENGLAND cricket star Ian Botham faces the threat of disciplinary action from Lord's because he insisted on playing football for Scunthorpe United after being warned to concentrate on England's cricket tour of Fiji and New Zealand.

Botham loves his Soccer and that's the only reason he defied the warning

from the cricket authorities, who feared

the star all-rounder might be injured.

David Gower was asked on a radio show recently what he would do in the off-season. Said Gower: "I think I'll try skiing and maybe break a leg!"